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NOLUME LXIII. NUMBER 19463

Year-end Sports Wrap-up

TODAY PA stamps fail to get seal of

It's all in the WORLD OF SPORT

approval on Christmas cards

TOM GROSS

CHRISTIANS are having trouble sending their Christmas cards between Israel and the Palestinian Authority areas this

"I wanted to send some greeting cards to my friends in Jerusalem," said Linds, a student at Bethlehem University. "But I've heard they're not getting through. Palestinian post offices are refusing to accept cards with Israeli stamps, while the PA postage designs haven't got the stamp of approval from Israel

Postal authorities in many Palestinian-controlled towns are only delivering letters and cards with PA stamps. Most have a picture of either Yasser Arafat or the Palestinian flag on them. But to be sure Palestinian Christians know the PA is looking out for them too - one stamp has a picture of Arafat with the Pope.

"I wanted to post my Christmas cards with Bethlehem postmarks," said one bemused Bolivian tourist who found herself in a sticky situ-

Locals have their own solutions. "The university authorities, who don't have to apply for permission to enter Israel, are going over to the nearby Jerusalem suburb of Gilo with a large sack and posting our mail using Israeli



said Brother Vincent Malham, who teaches piano at the music faculty of Bethlehem University.

When people want to send mail abroad, this is not so difficult, as the Palestinian stamps can be delivered via Jordan or Egypt. But the problem is writing to Israel," said Fadi, a second-year business and marketing student. "Incoming letters with Israeli stamps get here eventually, but take at least twice as long as they should do to reach us from nearby Jerusalem.`

The atmosphere in Bethlehem this Christmas is very different from the euphoria in the town a year ago, following the withdrawal of the IDF

The authorities have been hit by a cash crisis that has meant they have had difficulty finding funds to pay for fireworks, decorations, cleaning, road repairs and the thousands of colored light bulbs to adom the city in the run-up to tonight's Midnight Mass celebrations, which will be broadcast around the globe.

"We are facing Christmas without enough money to beautify the city," said Elias Freij, the town's Christian mayor, as well as the Palestinian minister of

tourism. Last year, although Israel had already handed the town over to Palestinian control two days before Christmas, the government footed the bill.





TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 FROM CAREVENIA ASTOR

US envoy Dennis Ross (left) and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat speak to reporters yesterday in Gaza after meeting for another round of discussions on the long-awaited Hebron redeployment.

Gov't to hit women, employers for another NIS 350m. in revenues

THE government plans to raise another NIS 350 million in revenues by removing certain tax bene fits from working women and by increasing the number of sick-leave days for which an employer

has to pay.

This solution was decided upon after the trumerous changes made to the economic arrangements bill in the kinesset Finance Committee Sunday left the government with a revenue gap of several hundred million shekels. Since the government carmot propose amendments to its own bill, Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan submitted these proposed amendments on its behalf, to be passed with the budget during its second and third

readings. Treasury director-general David Brodet admitted last night that the government has raised taxes.

We have tried very hard not to increase taxation. We have not increased VAT, income tax, or employers' National Insurance contributions, but we have increased taxes, say, on cigarettes and fuel."

According. Finance to Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism), the main proposal is the cancella**EVELYN GORDON AND DAVID HARRIS**

tion of the tax credit given to working women when the National Health Insurance Law was passed two years ago. This would save the government some NIS 300m. a year.

Employers now pay for the first two days of sick leave and the National Insurance Institute pays thereafter. The proposed amendment, according to the Treasury, would have employers pay for the

first nine days. That would give employers an incentive to crack down on people who stay out for long periods when they are not really sick and save some NIS 80m. a year, Ravitz

these revenue-raising amendments during his speech kicking off the plenum debate on the bill's second and third readings. "There are still a few amendments which we will recommend that you pass," he

These would be in addition to the sizable hike in gasoline and cigarette taxes the government has

imposed. (See box) The debate itself is expected to

Ravitz broached the issue of

Gasoline and tobacco prices rise

DAVID HARRIS

THE price of unleaded gasoline rose 9.5 percent last night, as the government announced increases in the prices of both fuel and cigareties. Foreign digarettes rose in price by an average 10.8%, and

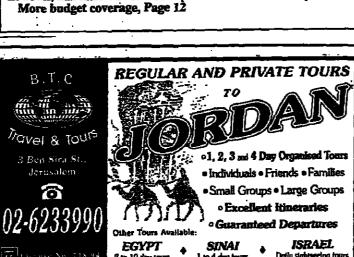
local cigarettes are up some 13.2%. The increase in fuel prices will bring up to NIS 750 million into government coffers, according to a senior source in the National Infrastructure Ministry's Fuel Administration. However, Treasury budget director Ran Kroll said this increase will only net the government some NIS 250m.

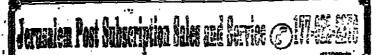
The price bikes include:

• 96 Octane gasoline up 6.5% to NIS 3.19. Unleaded gasoline up 9.5% to NIS 3.19.

• Kent, Marlboro, and Parliament cigarettes up to NIS 10.30 a

 Time, Time Light and Europa cigarettes up to NIS 6.30. Meanwhile, the excise duty on kerosene, diesel for transport vehicles, and heating fuel was reduced by 33%. This does not mean, however, that there will be a 33% price reduction on these products.





last through the middle of next

week, as some 5,000 amendments

have been submitted to the bill.

Since each amendment entitles its

proposer to five minutes of speak-

ing time, the debate could, in the-

ory, take more than 400 hours. In

practice, many MKs will lose their

turn by failing to show up. In a rare move, however, all 120 MKs will have to be available to vote virtually throughout the entire debate.

In previous years, the government and opposition always agreed to hold all the votes at the end of the debate, leaving MKs free to ignore the debate until (Continued on Page 2)

PM hopes summit will yield deal

DAVID MAKOVSKY AND JON IMMANUEL

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat are expected to meet today or tomorrow over the Hebron redeployment deal.

The premier was awaiting an answer from Arafat late last night whether such a meeting would be for actually signing a deal, and not for further bargaining. Arafat reportedly said he would meet Netanyahu today, Israel Radio

Once again, there was hope that, after so many reversals, the protracted negotiations on the IDF pullback in Hebron may finally reach a successful conclusion.

Jordan's King Hussein phoned Netanyahu last night and voiced optimism that the two sides were near agreement. Palestinian negotiator Mahmoud Abbas said that he also thought an agreement was very near.
"We expect a deal tonight.

Negotiations are continuing," said Palestinian negotiator Jamil Tarifi, on his way into Hebron talks at Jerusalem's Laromme Hotel between Israeli and PLO officials. He did not elaborate.

Last night, US special Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross informed Netanyahu of his sudden trip to Egypt yesterday, which was designed to obtain President Hosni Mubarak's blessing on what has been obtained by Israeli and Palestinian negotiators. Officials said they expect some

Egyptian representation at a signing ceremony, creating specula-tion that this would be Foreign Minister Amr Moussa. Ross, who was scheduled to

return to the US last night, has extended his stay. He was scheduled to meet Arafat late last night in Gaza to find out, in the words of Netanyahu, "whether Arafat is ready to close."

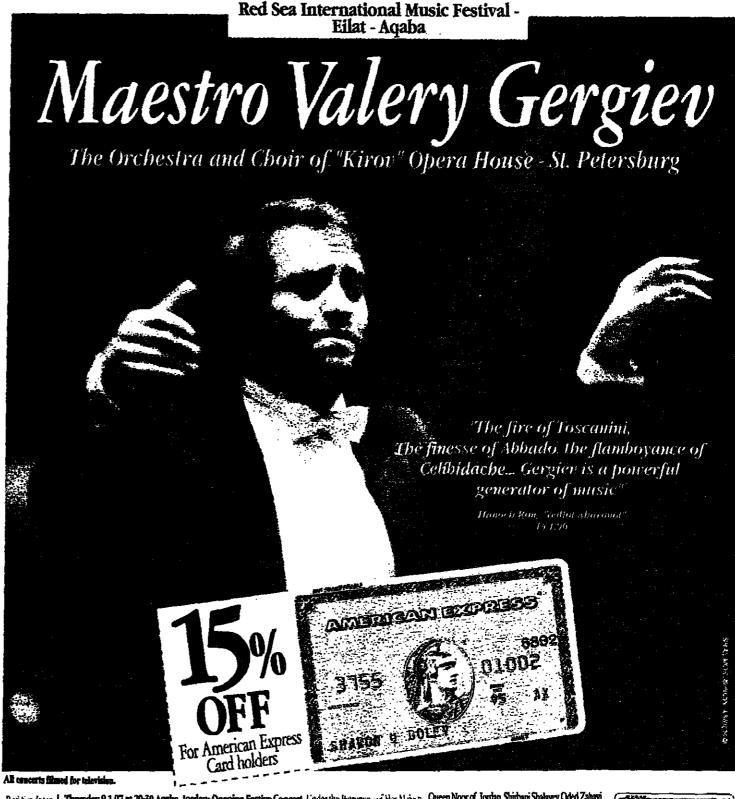
Netanyahu wants to avoid a situation whereby the Palestinian leader would try to use a summit meeting for final bargaining, senior Israeli officials say, based on the experience of Arafat's negotiating maneuvers during the past few years. Hence, Netanyahu wants to know in advance the nature of the meeting with Arafat, according to the sources.

Moreover, some officials suggested that Netanyahu would prefer the meeting be held secretly, fearing that Arafat would seek to leverage the build-up of a public meeting as a means to wring final concessions.

It seems that a key turnabout occurred in an all-night session Sunday which ended before dawn yesterday morning in Gaza. The meeting was important, as it included not only Arafat and Ross, but also top negotiators Yitzhak Molcho and IDF Planning Branch head Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz.

Officials say this session was crucial in enabling Arafat to directly understand detailed Israeli security concerns. Apparently at this meeting Arafat accepted restrictions on weaponry weaponry Palestinians could use in zones around Hebron, including surrounding hillsides.

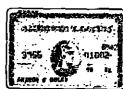
Apparently. Araiat's agreement to restrict weaponry comes amid Israeli agreement to be more forthcoming. It remains unclear what (Continued on Page 9)



Thursday 9.1.97 at 20-30 Agains, Jordan: Opening Festive Concert, Under the Patronage of the Alajest. Queen Noor of Jordan Shirban Shakyer Oded Zahavi works conmissioned in honor of Peace Mussongsky. Night on a Bald Mountain Runsky-Koryakov, Scheherezade Ippedino-Ivanov, Caucasian Sketches.

Priday, 10.1.97 at 21:50 - Elat; Festive Concert in the presence of Mr. Gabi Kadosh - Mayor of Eilat, Romeo and Juliet in Music, Berlioz: Romeo and Juliet - Dramatic Symptony Manus Tarassova, mezzo-soprano Tenor, to be announced Sergei Alexachkin, base Saturday, 11.197 et 21:00 - Filst: Verdi - "Regulem". Sharon Sweet, soprano Manna Tatassora, 19:270 september Gegan Grigorian, tenor Sergei Alexankin, bass More Concerts: at 11:00; A-Cappella - "Kirov" Opera Choir, at 10:00; Gorson of Musicke. Sunday, 12,197, 16:00 - Ellat: A Family Concert, Borodin: Polostsun Pances from Prince by a Probefier. Peter and the Well'

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NRP slams Stern for remarks supporting Palestinian state

NATIONAL Religious Party MKs and senior members unanimously condemned MK Avraham Stern for supporting the creation of a Palestinian State during recent interviews.

Although Stern said his statements had been

taken out of context and misinterpreted, he refused to unequivocally retract them.

For the moment we must stick by the party platform. That's not to say that in another three months we shouldn't discuss it," Stem reportedly said at the meeting.

In an interview in Ha'aretz yesterday, Stem was quoted saying the question of a Palestinian state is what prevents a broad national consen-

"Therefore I don't rule it out altogether, if there is a chance for a peace arrangement and that is the element which bolds it up," he told Ha'aretz, "I don't want a Palestinian state either, but it doesn't seem to me to be a sacred issue. In my opinion, it's possible to create such a state on condition it doesn't have a massive military, the ability to produce arms, and the right to exchange ambassadors with other

He made the comment in response to the statements made by the prime minister's com-munications director David Bar-Illan in an interview with The Jerusalem Post on Friday.

LIAT COLLINS

At the end of yesterday's meeting, however, the NRP issued a statement saying it upholds its platform, which states that there will be no Palestinian state or foreign national entity between the Jordan River and the

"The NRP faction unanimously determines that the movement's platform is binding on Knesset votes on political issues and calls on its members to represent its political stand only within the framework of the platform," the statement said.

In the closed meeting, party members roundty castigated Stern, party sources said. Former MK Haim Druckman described Stern's statements as "incomparably and irreparably miserable, deeply wounding the position of the State

NRP faction chairman Hanan Porat told Stern: "In my opinion you have crossed a red line. It is a great disservice to the state and MK Shaul Yahalom dismissed a suggestion

to convene the party's central committee over Stem's statements, saying it might give the impression that there is something to discuss.

The Third Way also discussed the issue in its

faction meeting.
"We decided to ask our friends in the Likud to stop the meetings with [Labor MK] Yossi Beilin and his friends because these meetings were intended to establish on the ground the Beilin-Abu Mazen plan, which the Third Way can't accept. It abandons the Jordan Valley and would hand over more than 90 percent of Judea and Samaria to the Palestinians," said Third Way faction chairman Yehuda Harel, who accused the Likud of "ideological demoralization."

Stern's statements, and comments by Yehuda Lankri (Gesher) on the possibility of a crossparty consensus to support permanent arrange-ments based on the principle of separation also came up in the Labor faction meeting.

MK Ephraim Such said the statements by these coalition MKs were important "for iecognizing that there is no turning back from what has been reached with the Palestinians and no better compromise than that based on

the principle of separation." Ruby Rivlin (Likud), however, accused Stern and Lankri of seeking headlines.

"There are those who think it's 'in' to say the creation of a Palestinian state is desirable. It's not 'in.' It will cause us to be out. An 'in' Palestinian state means the Israeli state will be

Bentsur: Russia plans MKs tour Ras al-Amud **Israel-Arab summit**

RUSSIA is planning to host summit with Israel, the Palestinians, and Arabs states in the aim of reviving the Madrid formula and hastening multilateral negotiations in particular, Foreign Ministry director-general Eitan Bentsur

said yesterday. There has been no progress in some of the multilateral groups for a long time.

Bentsur also said an Israeli-Palestinian meeting would soon take place in Gaza under Norwegian sponsorship, with the bope that humanitarian organizations will attend, as part of an effort to decide on ways to build trust.

The idea behind the gathering is that an improvement in the welfare of Palestinians will help strengthen the peace process. The Foreign Ministry welcomed the meeting.

Bentsur also said that Israel, the Palestinians, and the Arabs states involved in the peace process are trying to develop a "code of behavior," in the aim of preventing an immediate connection between the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and Israel's peace process with the Arab states.

This initiative is apparently due to the strong reaction of Egypt and Jordan to the difficulties in the negotiations on Hebron. (Itim)

MEMBERS of the Knesset Interior Committee toured the Ras

al-Amud neighborhood yesterday to see the area slated for Jewish housing that has roused the ire of

The MKs did not change their views during the tour and stuck with their party lines. MK Benny Elon (Moledet) said

he was surprised by the amount of housing and property being sold by Arabs to Jews in the Jerusalem area. He said some members of the Palestinian Authority were cooperating silently with this. Elon accused Arab MKs, and in particular Salah Salim (Hadash), of inciting Ras al-Amud's Arab residents to turn Jerusalem into the capital of a Palestinian state. Salim denied incitement.

This neighborhood will be built, not immediately because the Tunnel episode."

(Continued from Page 1)

express themselves will not be

During the opening of the debate, Ravitz praised the last-minute changes in the bill, saying

there was no need for further

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

nce the porticit

anrangement.

political and international situation doesn't permit it," said Emanuel Zissman (Third Way), "but many things are built in Jerusalem when one acts wisely and sensibly."

Avraham Poraz (Shinni-Meretz) said that just as he "would object to establishing an Arab neighborhood in western Jerusalem, without harming the city's unity, I think it would be a mistake to build a Jewish neighborhood here."

Avraham Stern (National Religious Party) said there are "things one can compromise on, but not on Jerusalem. If we make even the smallest concession on Jerusaiem we will lose the battle."

Committee chairman Sallah Tarif (Labor) warned it "is dangerous to build here. It's likely to turn into a second [Western Wall]

Mordechai leaves for Egypt

ANSWERING a personal invitation from President Hosni Mubarak, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai pays an official visit to Egypt today and is expected to update the Egyptian leader on the progress in the talks with the Palestinians.

"It's my intention to tell the president that Israel's face is turned toward peace and security with all nations in the region, to examine with him ways to strengthen the relations between Egypt and Israel and to update him on the negotiations with the Palestinians," Mordechai said last night. The visit will be the first to Egypt by Mordechai, a former OC Northern Command and decorated veteran of fierce fighting against the Egyptians in the Yom Kippur War. Arieh O'Sullivan

the city," said Moshe Ben-Zimra, a spokesman for the settlement. None of the Hebron activists had any information on the agreement beyond what was reported in _ nity in Hebron." the media, but they gave the

gets of terror.

HEBRON settlement activists lob-

bying legislators in the Knesset

matter of time after a Hebron rede-

before the Jews there become tar-

Top Palestinian negotiator Mahmoud Abbas leaves the King David Hotel in Jerusalem yesterday, following talks on the Hebron redeployment with an Israeli delegation that included Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Hebron settlers: Pact will lead

to our community's destruction

last night warned it will only be a impression that they thought the long-delayed agreement would soon be signed.

loyment agreement is signed "I feel that we have been deceived by [Prime Minister] Nezanyahu," Ben-Zimra said, "He "If the agreement is signed as it has not lived up to his agreement with the voters." is, it will be just a matter of time before Jewish blood is spilled in

Hebron settlement leader Noam Amon said of the agreement, "This is the first step towards the destruction of the Jewish commu-

What particularly concerned

Amon were reports that Shuhada Street, which goes from the Machpela Cave to Tel Rumeida, will be opened to Palestinian traffic. He said this will enable driveby shootings, attempts by Palestinians drivers to run over Jews, and even the planting of car bombs on the main artery serving what Amon termed the "Jewish

"Netanyahu will go down in history as the prime minister who led to the destruction of the Jewish settlement in Hebron," Arnon

INTERPORT OF THE PROPERTY OF

Leah Weiss and family

On the anniversary of the passing of our dear

mother and grandmother

LILLY SEGAL 5"

Services will be held on Friday,

December 27, 1996 (12 Tevet, 5757), at 2 p.m.,

at the Sdeh Yehoshua Cemetery,

Gate Aleph (Kfar Samir).

Roni and Ehud Goldberg and family

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Anne and Gideon Patt and family on the death of

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BUDGET

then. This year, however, Labor amendments (other than the revinsisted that votes be held on each enne-raising measures). separate item as it came up, and "The bill is now more progresthe coalition decided not to use its sive than the original proposal," majority in the Knesset House

said Ravitz. "As far as I am Committee to force a different aware, changes such as [Finance] committee members made in the "I will fight for the right of opposition MKs to express themeconomic arrangements bill are unprecedented... and I definitely selves and criticize the governalso attribute this to the flexibility ment, just as we did during the of the finance minister [Dan last government," Eitan said. "We Meridor]." will try to have all arrangements regarding the voting reached by agreement, so that MKs' right to

Avraham Shohat (Labor), the first opposition speaker, responded by deriding the government for its inability to pass its original

Shohat quoted Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's now-famous "read my lips" promise not to raise taxes, made this summer in Caesarea, as well as his statement at the same forum that "we will pass the budget exactly as we presented it."

"Not a single promise was kept," Shohat said. "What did

they do? They raised taxes!"
"I said [when the bill was first presented] that it would not pass in the same form as it entered the Knesset... but I never dreamed it would undergo such major changes," he added. "We have here a new economic arrangements bill."

Liat Collins adds: The Labor Knesset faction

scomed the government's budget proposals during its weekly meeting yesterday.
"It contradicts what the prime minister said [about no tax

hikes]," said Labor leader Shimon

Peres. He said Labor would "definitely vote against" the budget. "You can't cheat the economy. There are a lot of tricks and pretense going on here. It will bring about a recession.... It's so easy to cut on paper without making any real cuts in effect," Peres said.

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News in Brief

Korman's appeal against remand rejected The Supreme Court rejected Nahum Korman's appeal against his remand yesterday. Korman, a security coordinator for the settlement of Betar, is charged with beating to death 11-year-old Hilmi Shousha while chasing a group of stone-throwing youths. Justice Yitzhak Zamir said the alleged facts of the case create a presumption that Korman is dangerous, and, once someone is presumed dangerous, alternatives to arrest are not possible.

Isaac Stern made Diaspora Museum fellow Violinist Isaac Stern was made an honorary fellow of the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv yesterday. The citation praised Stern as a musician and friend of Israel, and for the time he has devoted to training Israeli musicians. Philanthropist Sara Mayer, a long-time Diaspora Museum supporter, was also awarded an honorary

Moshav family find 'alien,' store it in freezer A family on Moshav Ahind in the western Galilee has frozen what it claims is an alien life form, after no local or government agency

would come to examine it, police said.

The family, who found the small "alien" in their barn, said they would keep it frozen in their home until it is examined by an

PM to visit Pope next month Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was quoted yesterday as

saying he would meet Pope John Paul II at the Varican next month. Netanyahu, who has not met the Pope since his election last May, said in an interview with Telepace, a Rome-based Catholic television station, that he had scheduled the meeting with the Pope "I will be in Rome at the end of January and on that occasion

naturally, I will visit the Pope and the Vatican," he said.

The Vatican and Israel established full diplomatic ties two years ago. Both sides are still formally at odds over the status of Jerusalem. Last Thursday, the Pope and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat discussed the peace process in a meeting at

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in deep sorrow, we announce the death of our dear husband, father, grandfather and brother CAROL PICKEL

The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, December 24, 1996, at 2:30 p.m., at the Savyon cemetery. Shiva will be held at the Patt residence, 51 Hagderot Street, Savyon.

> Mourned by his: Wife: Rose Pickel

Daughters: Anne and Gideon Patt Renée and Alex Monro Grandchildren: Daniel and Jodi Patt Doron and Devorah Patt

Efi Patt Brother: Arie (Louis) and Lea Pickel Sister. Elizabeth Lipschutz

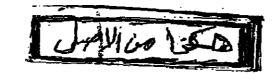
In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our father and head of the family

ZVI AVNON

The funeral will take place today, leaving from the Sanhedria Funeral Home, Jerusalem, at 11 a.m. for the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem.

Mourned by his:

Son, Dan Avnon and family Daughter, Ruth Gilad and family





Thousands of senior citizens demonstrate outside the Knesset yesterday to protest the budget cuts, which will eliminate their discounts to parks and places of entertainment. "The nation's senior citizens are concerned and anxious not only for the future of our pensions, but for daily means of existence,' said Gideon Ben-Yisrael, head of the senior citizens action committee. (Yizhak Elbarar)

1996 set to be worst year ever on Israel's roads

25,830 accidents projected for the year; 46,845 people injured, up 21.6%

THERE will have been some 25,830 traffic accidents by the end of the year, a 19.1% increase over last year and the worst year ever. The number of people injured in traffic accidents will reach some 46,845, up 21.6%, the Knesset Economics Committee heard yes-

At that rate, Committee chairman Elie Goldschmidt (Labor) said an astounding 600 out of every 1,000 Israelis will be involved in a road accident some time in their lives, and one out of every 20 will be either killed or seriously injured.

The Transportation Ministry plans a number of new traffic safety programs in 1997, ranging from road-safety courses for elderly EVELYN GORDON

pedestrians to increased lighting on busy roads, Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy told the committee. Levy said he intends to make road safety his ministry's top priority. As a first step, he said, he plans to make the Road Safety Administration and other units dealing with road safety directly

responsible to him.

Levy plans to set up an authority to coordinate a war on traffic accidents — one of the measures included in a road safety bill that has been stalled in the Knesset due

to Treasury opposition.

This authority would include a research institute to serve all min-

istries that deal with road safety, a unit to promote public awareness of road safety, and a program to train civilian drivers through the IDF. Army teachers and National Service women would instruct the elderly on the rules of pedestrian safety, as many accidents involve elderly pedestrians.

Also planned are better lighting for busy roads, electronic road signs that will be easier to read, the testing of a new material to reduce skidding on roads and the computerization of traffic tickets, Levy said.

Goldschmidt noted that traffic accidents result not only in loss of life, but also in economic losses. Accidents cost the economy about NIS 1.2 billion this year, he said.

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Petah Tikva religious schools taken to court over discrimination

EVELYN GORDON

TWO parents and an MK petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday against alleged ethnic discrimination in the Petah Tikva state religious schools.

Two elementary schools, Yavne and Naot David, have divided all grades into two tracks – the Torah track and the science track. In the Torah-track classes, girls and boys learn separately, and the pupils get an: extra seven to nine hours a week of classes in religious studies. Torah-track students must also pay an additional fee. In the science track, the classes are co-educational.

However, the petition charged that the two tracks are merely an excuse for separating Ashkenazim from Sephardim and new immigrants. Currently, the science track consists of 65 students, of whom three are new immigrants from the former Soviet Union, 15 are Ethiopian immigrants and the remainder are Sephardim, the petition said.

The petition noted the sciencetrack classes are far smaller than the norm, furthering the impression that they were set up exclusively to weed out a few undesirable pupils. One first-grade science-track class, for instance, has only five pupils, and there are only seven pupils in one of the fifth-grade and one of the sixthgrade science classes.

When Esther and Nissim Haim decided they wanted their daughter moved into the Torah track, they were refused, even though they were willing to pay the fee, the petition said. The couple was asked to fill out a questionmaine about their religious practices, since the official reason for the two tracks is the pupils' different levels of religiosity, but were refused even though their answers were acceptable, the petition charged. The Haims, together with MK Ran Cohen (Meretz), petitioned the High Court against the entire separation system.

Court: Gynecologist must stay in jail during rape trial

EVELYN GORDON

A GYNECOLOGIST charged with raping two of his patients should remain in jail, the Supreme Court ruled yesterday, overturning a district court's decision that house arrest would suffice.

Dr. Bogdan Dekel is accused of raping two patients, one in 1994 and one in 1996. One of the women gave birth as a result, the other, a minor, had an abortion. Dekel is on trial in the Haifa District Court, which put him under house arrest. The state appealed that decision, arguing he should be in jail.

The state argued that if Dekel were released, he would try to destroy evidence or intimidate witnesses. He has already tried to hide at least one medical file, the state

said. Furthermore, it said, he has tried several times to persuade the younger victim not to testify, telephoning her and one of her teach-

Dekel's attorneys argued that since he is no longer practicing, he is not a danger to society and, even if he were, house arrest would solve the problem.

Justice Tova Strasberg-Cohen decided Dekel should remain in jail at least until the two victims finish testifying. After they finish, or in two months if they are not done by then, Dekel can petition the district court for his release, she said.

"The gravity of the acts attributed to the respondent cannot be exaggerated," she added.

Katsav seeks to lure Russian tourists

THEY used to come with shopping bags full of dollars. These days, tourists from Russia use credit cards, but they still spend money very freely.

The Russian tourist is sufficiently sought after that Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav said this week he intends to send a ministry representative to Russia, even at a time when the ministry has to cut back on its activities because of budget cuts. An aide said that one of the reasons for encouraging Russian tourism was that it was

less affected by unrest in the area.
"The Russians are less influenced by what is shown on CNN," said Moni Shilo, Katsav's press adviser.
During the first nine months of this year, ministry figures show

During the first nine months of this year, ministry figures show that a total of 85,564 visitors from the CIS came to Israel, an increase of 6 percent over the same period last year. The figures for incoming tourism in general show that there were 2% fewer tourists.

The slump, according to the experts, was largely a result of a sharp drop after the bus bombings in March. In September, while incoming tourism was down 15% compared to the previous year, visitors from the CIS had decreased by only 1%.

"It is a very interesting market, close to Israel and with great potential," said Ami Etgar, director of the Association of Tour Agents.
He said some of the visitors from the former Soviet Union are relatively poor Christian pilgrims, but many others are very wealthy. Russian tourism in the winter to Eilat was already well-established, he said, and the flow of tourists fleeing from the Russian winter to the Dead Sea was also promising.

As lucrative as the Russian tourism market is today, it could easily be increased if the government were willing to take down some of the barriers it has put up in the face of Russian visitors. With suspicions that Russians want to come to work, it is hard for Russian tourists to get a visa.

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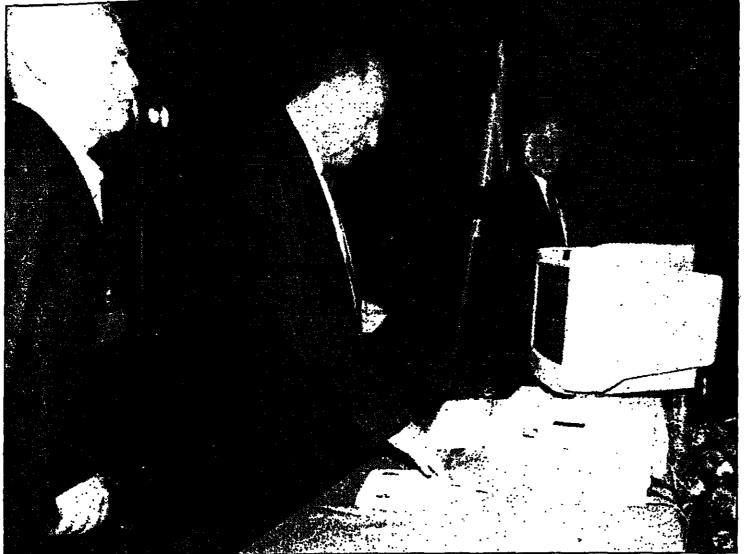
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The Knesset's Internet site was launched yesterday at a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Initiated by Likud MK Michael Eitan and developed by a team of computer professionals and Knesset staffers, the site allows Internet users to hear live action from the plenum, listen to recordings of famous Knesset speeches, examine bills at various stages of the legislative process and send messages to MKs. Eitan said an effort would be made to get other government offices and databases on-line and accessible to the public. Though the bulk of the information appears in Hebrew, a Knesset tour and background information are presented in English, with more translations planned. The site's address is http://www.knesset.gov.il (Text: Judy Sieget: Photo: Isaac Harari)

Arabs petition for right to do national service

ARABS and Jewish men exempt from army service should be able to volunteer for national service and get the attendant financial benefits, a petition to the High Court of Justice said yes-

The petition was filed by Vivian Khoury, a Christian Arab, Marwat Marisat, a Bedouin woman, Eyal Daniel, a Jewish man exempt from the army for health reasons, and the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.

The petition stated that national service gives participants a feeling of satisfaction and of belonging to Israeli society. In addition, participants are eligible for financial benefits. such as larger mortgages and scholarship aid. Finally, people who have done army or national service are often given preference

EVELYN GORDON

when applying for jobs or popular degree pro-

About 18 months ago, the Fund for Absorbing Demobilized Soldiers decided. upon the recommendation of the Defense Ministry, that there was no reason not to accept either Arabs or Jews exempt from regular army duty into national service programs. Accordingly, a number of such people did become national service volunteers. A few months later, however, the National Insurance Institute - which is responsible for approving national service programs - decided to overturn this policy.

The petition charged that not permitting Arabs or Jews exempt from regular service to volunteer for national service constitutes illegal discrimination, especially given the financial implications of this refusal.

Linking financial benefits to army service when Arabs are not permitted to serve - is discriminatory, as it effectively ensures that only Jews get such benefits, the petition charged. However, the discriminatory character of this policy seems even more blatant when Arabs are not even allowed to volunteer for national service, the petition said.

The rationale for the financial benefits has always been that those who do army service deserve compensation for those years, during which they are unable to work or study.

Concern over Kinneret's Judge: Buying testimony a 'dangerous precedent' low water level

RAINE MARCUS

THE question of "buying witnesses" arose again yesterday in Tel Aviv District Court, which heard a petition filed by security company owner David Spector.

Spector, who provides security services for the daily Ha'aretz. requested that the court declare evidence bought by Ma'ariv publisher Ofer Nimrodi null and void. Nimrodi, currently on trial in the media wiretapping case, paid private investigator Ze'ev Laufer \$600,000, to testify against Ma'ariv's rival, Yediot Aharonot, implicating the latter in commissioning tapping. The money, Spector wrote in his petition, was

paid without the full permission of Ma'ariv shareholders, of which he is a minor one.

"The privatization of witnesses. that is the purchasing of testimonies by private parties, is a defect and is a dangerous precedent." Judge Sara Sirotta said during the four-hour hearing. "Next we will hear of wimesses, who are not criminals, but who are scared to testify for whatever reason, being bought by individuals."

But she also said that, contrary to Spector's speculations, there was nothing criminal about the payment given to Laufer by Ma'ariv.

DAVID RUDGE CONCERN is growing over the

low water level of the Kinneret, given the lower-than-average rainfall so far this winter. The water level is only 1.41

meters above the minimum mark. When it falls below this level, experts say, there is a risk the water quality will be irreparably harmed. The lake is more than 52 centimeters below the level it was at this time last year.

Mekorot officials said the shortfall compared to the level of the lake last year amounts to over 100 million cubic meters of water.

The water company is continuing to pump from the lake into the

National Water Carrier, but this may have to be stopped if there is no significant rainfall in the coming weeks, the officials said.

The carrier transports water

from the Kinneret to other parts of the country, primarily for domestic use, although some is still used for irrigation. The dearth of rainfall so far this

winter has forced farmers to irrigate fields and orchards more than usual, placing a further drain on water resources. A committee of hydrological

experts is to meet next month to decide how to best manage the nation's water resources.

At least 8 killed in factory explosion near Houston

AN explosion blew a gaping hole through the roof of a metal-fabricating plant, killing at least eight people and leaving one worker missing, a federal official said yes-

The blast happened late Sunday at the Wyman Gordon Forging Co., which employs about 1,200 people northwest of Houston in Harris County, fire and company officials said.

Body parts were thrown as far as 100 meters outside the building, which had a 12-by-15-meter hole in its roof, said Erik Petocz, assistant chief of the Cypress-Fairbanks Department.

He said workers were searching nearby fields for body parts and

Eight people were killed, two others were hospitalized and one was missing, said Roy Piggee. assistant area director for the Occupational Safety and Health

JOAN THOMPSON HOUSTON

Administration in Houston. Company officials didn't know what caused the blast or how many people were working in the area, said Wallace Whitney, general counsel for Wyman Gordon at North Grafton, Massachusetts. Plant officials were kept out by

fire marshals, he said, although no fire was reported.

That plant has an exemplary safety record," Whitney said. Several of the dead and injured were related to other workers, said longtime plant employee G.H. Bell, who arrived expecting to start work at 6 a.m.

"Most of the employees that were killed were new hires. They were sons of older employees, Bell said. "I'm just fortunate that my son wasn't there."

Karin Norred said one of the

dead was her son, Jody. "I had a man show up at my door and say there was a little problem at Wyman-Gordon, that there had been an explosion, and that my son was dead," she said. "I don't think my son was a little prob-

The blast occurred near a 30,000-ton press in the plant which produces extruded pipe used in power and chemical

The press is run under high pressure and they really don't know what happened," said unloa official Leslie Schroeter. The press wasn't in operation at the time of the explosion. A maintenance crew was working."

Schroeter, special representative with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, said the plant had not had any fatal accidents before, They take care of their safety problems real well," he said. (AP)

Diamond ring makes its way to fiancee of Flight 800 victim

FROM the moment it was found bobbing amid debris in the Atlantic until it was recently removed from an FBI vault in Calverton, NY, a diamond ring has remained an elusive token of love for a woman who lost everything one night in July.

But yesterday, just two days before Christmas and 159 days after the TWA Flight 800 crash that claimed her fiance's life, Julie Stuart will finally get to wear the engagement ring Andrew Krukar intended to slip on her finger last

FB1 Assistant Director James Kallstrom was scheduled to meet with Stuart in Manhattan yesterday afternoon and hand over the 1.6-karat diamond. Stuart. of Bridgewater, Connecticut, said federal authorities called her last week to let her know that the ring would be released.

"It's taken a long time. And at this point, it's more bitter than sweet," said Stuart, a 31-year-old human resources manager who met Krukar more than a year ago at the Connecticut company where they worked. "But the ring, it's what I have left of him."

LAUREN TERRAZZANO **NEW YORK**

known only as Item 26 at the Calverton hangar that has become tragedy's own scrapbook, where twisted pieces of the Boeing 747 sit and valuable personal effects remain in a vault, waiting to be returned to families.

The antique-style diamond, surrounded by two smaller stones and gold filigree, was in its original maroon silk box when it was plucked by divers from the Atlantic Ocean on July 18. The couple had picked it out together at a West Hartford, Connecticut iewehry store.

Authorities said they could not release the ring until they were sure of its ownership. It was considered an "unassociated item." meaning that it was recovered without any identification linking it to a particular passenger among the 230 people on board, all of whom were killed.

.But the fact that it was even said Stuart. found makes Stuart believe that it

engagement official by presenting the diamond to her.

Weeks after the disaster, she assumed that the ring was lost forever in the Atlantic. But when a friend in France sent her a copy of the August 1 issue of Paris Match, which featured some of the items recovered from the wreckage, she spotted it.

"I thought, 'My God, it's the ring.'
My heart skipped." said Stuart. "For a moment I was hopeful."

For Stuart and Krukar's family, who wanted her to have the engagement ring, the news marked the end of a long ordeal. The couple planned to marry July 12 in Bridgewater. Now.

Stuart's goal is to simply get through the holidays. She says having the ring on her finger will make her feel closer to the man who, last year at this time, was buying her sweaters, bubble

bath and champagne glasses. They say you don't cry as much as time goes on and that you start to heal, but it's a long process,"

"It was his final wish, the ultiwas a final message from Krukar, mate symbol of our love," she

that I have left of him."

who had planned to meet her in said. "And when I get it, I'm not Until now, the diamond has been Paris July 19 and make their going to take it off."

Newaday

Margret Rey, co-creator of Curious George, dies at 90

(AP) - Margret E. Rey, half of the husband-and-wife team that created the "Curious George" children's books about the irrepressible monkey, has died at age 90.
Rey died Saturday at her home

in Cambridge after suffering a heart attack about three weeks ago, her publisher said.

She and her husband, H.A. Rey, created the fictional monkey Curious George while living in

escaped on bicycles with the unsold manuscript in 1940 before the German occupation. After Houghton Mifflin pub-

lished "Curious George" in 1941, the Reys wrote six more books over 25 years, all about the trouble-prone monkey who wreaks havoc and has to be rescued or forgiven - or saves the day. Though both were artists, H.A.

Rey illustrated the Curious George books while Margret Rey created the stories.

After escaping Paris, the couple eventually made their way to New

Almost as soon as they arrived, the Reys sold "Curious George" to Houghton Mifflin. "He became very much a figure of his own," she said in an interview with The Associated Press in April. "He

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts Paris in the 1930s. The couple knew what he could do and couldn't do. He became a per-

> The series has sold more than 20 million copies in 12 languages. An anthology released last year, The Complete Adventures of Curious George," is in its second

She said they had practical reasons for inventing George. "We did it because we needed money," she said.

"It's a good book," she added. We never thought of children, we did it only to please ourselves. By happy coincidence, the children had the same kind of imagina-

In addition to the seven original Curious George books, Margret Rey created 28 other Curious George adventures with Alan J. Shalleck.

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STATE OF ISRAEL **Decorations Unit**

Award of Ribbons and Decorations to former Members of Underground Organizations, the Hagana, Etzel, Lehi, and other Groups

In this period before the 50th anniversary of the founding of the State, we wish to draw the attention of former members of the underground organizations, the Hagana, Etzel, Lehi, people who were active in the illegal-immigration and escapefrom-Europe organizations, volunteers in the Mandate-period police and guarding organizations, and members of Gahal and Mahal, to the fact that we are continuing to award the ribbons and decorations noted below, to eligible persons who

Hagana Ribbon and State of Israel Fighter's Decoration to everyone who was a member of the Hagana for at least six months, in the period between 1920 and the establishment of the State. Etzel Ribbon and State of Israel Fighter's Decoration

to everyone who was a member of Etzel for at least six months, in the period between 1937 and the establishment of the State. Lehi Ribbon and State of Israel Fighter's Decoration to everyone who was a member of Lehi for at least six months, in the period between 1940 and the establishment of the State.

Hamishmar Ribbon and State of Israel Fighter's Decoration to all citizens and permanent residents who, before the founding of the State, performed full-time service of at least six months, in the Mandate police or guards service.

State of Israel Fighter's Award

to all who: a. were active in the illegal immigration or escape-from-Europe organizations, for a period of at least six months b. were recruited abroad for service in the Israel Defense Forces, through Gahal, or the Mahal volunteer organization, between February 1, 1948 and March 10, 1949.

Prisoner of the Mandate Authorities Decoration

to persons who were detained or imprisoned by the British authorities, because of activities with or membership of one of the underground organizations or military or quasi-military organizations which took part in the struggle against the British authorities in Eretz Yisrael, in the period preceding the establishment of the State. The decoration will be awarded to all who were imprisoned for more than six months.

Eligibility for Ribbons and Decorations

For a person who has died, an application to determine eligibility may be submitted by his/her nearest next of kin, in the following order: widower, widow, son, daughter, father, mother, brother, sister, grandson, granddaughter. Everyone who considers himself eligible for, and wishes to receive one of the above ribbous/decorations may fill in an application form, and send it to

The Decorations Unit, Ministry of Defense, Hakirya, Tel Aviv 61909

The forms may be obtained from the Decorations Unit, 22 Rehov Ha'arba'a, Tel Aviv, where reception hours are 10 a.m. - 12 noon on Mondays, and 2 - 4 p.m. on Wednesdays. The forms will also be sent by mail, on receipt of a request in writing control by Decoration 12 to 15. in writing, sent to the Decorations Unit, Ministry of Defense, Hakirya 61909, or by phone (03-6975671). When applying, state the activities, in respect of which the ribbon is requested, and the identity card number of the applicant.

MINISTRY OF DEFENSE Decorations Unit NAZI FIGHTER'S RIBBON

We are continuing to award the Nazi Fighter's Ribbon to eligible persons who have not yet received it. The ribbon will be awarded to every Israeli citizen or permanent resident who can demonstrate that, during World War II

a. Took part in the fight against the Nazis and the Axis powers, in the underground, in the ghettoes, or with the partisans, in an organized revolt, or in the armed forces of the Allies.

b. Volunteered in Eretz Yisrael to serve in the British forces, even if the person concerned has already received the Volunteer's Ribbon for this service.

A person who is eligible to receive the Nazi Fighter's Ribbon is also eligible for the State of Israel Fighter's Award (if he has not already received it) and for which he may submit an appropriate declaration.

An application to establish the right to the ribbon may also be submitted on behalf of a person who has died, by the nearest next-of-kin, namely a widower, widow, son, daughter, father, mother, brother or sister, in that order. Anvone who considers himself eligible, and wishes to

should be sent to: The Decorations Unit, Ministry of Defense, Hakirya, Tel Aviv 61909 The forms are obtainable from the Decorations Unit.

22 Rehov Ha'arba'a, Tel Aviv, which is open on Mondays,

receive the ribbon should fill in an application form, which

10 a.m. - 12 noon, and on Wednesdays, 2 - 4 p.m. The forms can also be obtained by post, by writing to the Decorations Unit, Ministry of Defense, Hakirya, Tel Aviv 61909, Tel. 03-697 5671,

In the submission, you should mention for what service the ribbon is requested, and the identity card number of the applicant.

UN decides not to send military force for Zaire

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - The United Nations will not send a military force to Zaire to help Rwandan refugees, the Security Council decided yesterday.

The council's decision was largely a formality, as participating countries had already agreed there was no longer a need for a multinational force to help refugees returning from eastern

"In light of the new situation in the region, the functions of the multinational force will come to an end," said Security Council President Francesco Paolo Fuici

About 940,000 of the estimated 1.2 million refugees who fled Rwanda in 1994 following the massacre of at least 500,000 Tutsis have returned in the last two months, from Zaire and

UN refugee agency officials said between 20,000 and 30,000 a day_were expected to arrive from Tanzania until the end of

In opting against the military mission, the council followed the recommendations of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who submitted a report to the council late last

In the report, Boutros-Ghali nevertheless called for continued attention to the humanitarian needs in Rwanda.

"The humanitarian crisis created by the various conflicts is itself far from being resolved," he said. Urgent attention must now be devoted to the social, economic and political integration of these returnees.'

Generally, he noted, the refugees have been well-treated, but "internal conflicts persist."

The government is holding more than 86,000 people in overcrowded jails, most without legal arrest orders. The first trials of genocide suspects are scheduled to begin December 30.

Folci said it may be time for a peace conference between the warring parties from the Rwandan conflict, which was touched off when Hutus began their orchestrated massacre, mainly of Tutsis.

The United Nations is also considering a permanent envoy for the

Canada was leading the humanitarian mission, which included about a dozen countries. Lt.-Gen. Maurice Baril, comforce, said earlier this month the situation in eastern Zaire "has changed on the ground" so much that there was little need for the relief operation.

Hold the Big Mac! McDonald's cooks up new menu

OAK BROOK, Illinois (AP) -With its own research showing its burgers aren't as tasty as the competition, McDonald's is making some changes.

The Wall Street Journal

reported yesterday that McDonald's is ordering modifications - including less salt in ketchup and improved sauce for the Big Mac - after finding its burgers rated behind Wendy's and Burger King.

Other changes include making sure burgers aren't over-cooked and doing away with the practice of placing lettice and tomato in the microwave along with Arch Deluxes. In the future, the garnishes will be added after heating.

The newspaper said the changes were outlined in a memo earlier this month to franchises, and they come as management seeks to boost sales at US stores. McDonald's doesn't release figures, but analysts say they have been flat or lower for most of the year.

The memo's author, chief operating officer Thomas Glasgow Jr., noted the company listened to franchisees' concerns about the food.

"Now we want to move _ FAST," he wrote, according to

the Journal. McDonald's will forego traditionally lengthy testing in order to satisfy as many customers as possible, the memo

Company officials weren't immediately available for comment yesterday. The Journal said a spokesman declined to comment on the change, other than to say the company always evaluates menu and cooking proce-

Peruvian terrorists keep 140 hostages

LIMA (Renter) - Ignoring pleas from around the world, defiant Marxist rebels vowed to keep more than 140 hostages at the Japanese ambassador's residence over Christmas unless Peru's govemment meets their demands.

The heavily armed Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) guerrillas set free most of their captives Sunday night in an emotional 225-person mass exit that included all the US, British and German prisoners.

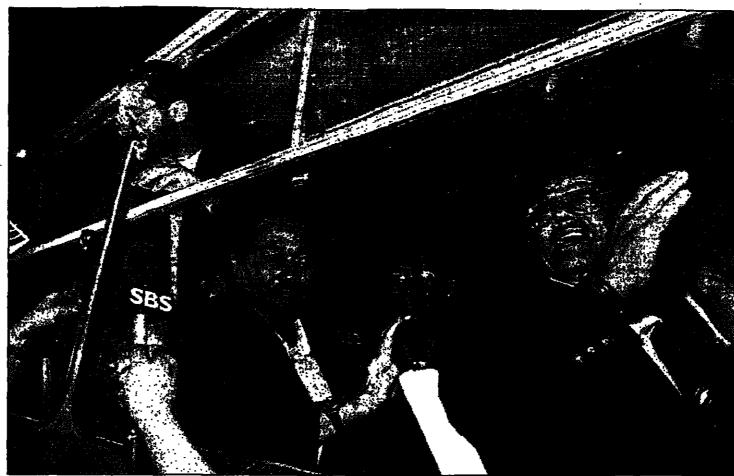
But the rebels said in a statement read prior to the exodus that they would not release high-ranking Peruvian government officials or Japanese VIPs until demands for the release of jailed guerrilla comrades were met.

The Japanese still held as bargaining chips in the embassy residence include top local managers of big Japanese companies and the host of the ill-fated diplomatic reception stormed by the rebels last Tuesday, Ambassador Morihisa Aoki.

Reflecting the grief felt in Japan, Emperor Akihito cancelled all official celebrations of his birthday yesterday and Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto tracked the crisis from a special war-room in the Foreign Ministry fitted out

with television monitors. As families of the released hostages celebrated in Lima, President Bill Clinton called for the immediate release of those still held. Pope John Paul II had earlier added his voice to the appeals.

Peruvian leader Alberto Fujimori has so far refused all of the MRTA's demands and has cut off water and electricity to the residence - something released hostages say is endangering the health and safety of those still inside.



Japanese hostages leave their ambassador's residence in Lima late Sunday night after their release by Tupac Amaru rebels. The guerrillas released 225 hostages but still hold 140.

"It is extremely important that water is restored," released hostage Victor Lucero, a physi-cian, told local television. "Water is indispensable. Without it, the situation is very dangerous." He said captives had developed at least eight cases of conjunctivitis

because of the foul conditions. The MRTA statement also warned the government that "if

Mr. Fujimori decides on a military solution he will always find a Tupac Amaru member vigilant." Police, who have prepared com-

guerrillas include four sharpshooters at strategic windows armed with rifles with night-vision telescopic sights.

Reinforcing the rebel threat, a red-and-white Peruvian flag, dec-

last resort if talks fail, say the the head of Tupac Amaru - an Indian leader who led a 18th century uprising against Spanish con-querors before being captured and torn limb from limb by horses –

hung provocatively from a residence window yesterday.

About 900 policemen surroundsame number who have kept guard throughout the crisis.

Led by former textile factory worker turned revolutionary Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, the mostly young, muscular rebels stormed from jungle obscurity onto the world's front pages with their surprise assault last Tuesday night.

Although police describe Cerpa as a "vicious terrorist" with a long history of bloody attacks, the rebels appear to have treated their captives well and tried to present an image of concerned social crusaders that belies their violent tactics. They said they had released most of their captives for humanitarian reasons before Christmas.

In tumultuous scenes late Sunday, the released men filed out to the cheers and applause of more than a thousand waiting relatives, journalists and officials. Looking tired but elated to be out after five days of captivity, the men waved to cameras and made victory signs before being whisked away in five buses to a police hospital for rou-tine medical checks.

Those released included the ambassadors of Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Venezuela and Cuba, as well as diplomats from Bolivia, the European Union, the United Nations, Britain, Spain, Germany and seven US officials.

"Daddy, Daddy," shouted one young Asian girl perched on a man's shoulder as she finally recognized her father in one of the buses.

Others wept or cried out in joy. Fujimori, himself the son of Japanese immigrants, greeted the freed captives but left without a word to reporters. His brother, Pedro Fujimori, was still being

Yeltsin returns to Kremlin after six

MOSCOW (AP) – Russian President Boris Yeltsin emerged from his black stretch Mercedes, adjusted his fur hat and with a broad smile said "Zdravstvuite" (Hello) to aides welcoming him back to the Kremlin yesterday.

Six months after heart trouble largely put him out of action, Yeltsin returned to his office declaring his eagemess to take on Russia's worsening economic

"I'm in good spirits, I'm feeling good and I'm ready for battle," he and into the building.

Noticeably slimmer, Yeltsin seemed more alert and his breathing less labored than before quintuple bypass surgery on November 5 that repaired his heart.

While Yeltsin has remained in charge throughout his illness, his return to the Kremlin effectively marked the start of his second term. He had a heart attack just days before his July 3 re-election victory and since then has made

only rare public appearances.

Doctors say the 65-year-old president is making a full recovery and should be able to maintain a normal work schedule.

One of his first actions vesterday was to meet with his chief of staff, Anatoly Chubais, and other presidential aides.

Yeltsin told them he was satisfied with his administration's performance during his absence but that they now have a lot of work ahead of them, his spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky

The Russian leader has grown impatient with convalescence, and with the government's failure to resolve a growing economic and social crisis. Millions of workers go unpaid for months as the econgo uncollected.

"There's no time to waste," Yeltsin said in a television address

Communist Party leader Germady Zyuganov wasted no time in attacking his arch-foe, telling a news conference that

Yeltsin was still unfit to rule. "Even when he was healthy and sober he couldn't come up with an answer to any of the issues facing Russia," said Zyuganov, whom Yeltsin defeated in the presidential

Yeltsin spoke by telephone with British Prime Minister John Major. They agreed that Major should visit Moscow but did not

Tensions rise in Belgrade as months on the sidelines police arrive ahead of rival rallies

FEARS of clashes grew yesterday as Slobodan Milosevic called for a large rally in his support on the same square where opposition groups have protested his antocratic rule for the past month. Foes of the Serbian president warned it could provoke a civil war.

Hundreds of riot police were bused to the capital a day before the planned pro-Milosevic rally, intended to counter a month-long prodemocracy protest against the annulment of opposition election victories.

About 80,000 pro-democracy supporters defied heavy rains to demonstrate in Belgrade for the 34th straight day in protests that have marked the biggest challenge to Milosevic since he came to power nine years ago.

but warned Milosevic might use his forces to instigate violence that could prompt a crackdown just when world attention is focused on the Christmas holidays.

Tomorrow, Milosevic will have a chance to show if he means well for his country and people," said Zoran Djindjic a leader of the opposi**JULIJANA MOJSILOVIC** BELGRADE, Yugoslavia

tion coalition Zajedno, or Together. To provoke clashes would be "sheer madness," he said. A conflict between pro- and anti-Milosevic protesters would give Serbia's president an excuse to ban all demonstrations and use force against his opponents whose protests so far

have been peaceful. Zajedno charged in a statement that Milosevic would try to provoke clashes by disguising policemen as his civilian supporters, who would

intervene against pro-democracy demonstrators. The state-run Tanjug news agency, announcing the pro-Milosevic rally in Belgrade, said all those who are "for peace, freedom, independent Serbia and against terrorism and foreign rule" should come to a central square at 3 p.m. today. Opposition protests take place at the same

Several small pro-Milosevic rallies were held in Serbia yesterday, including one in the

volatile Kosovo province where Milosevic rose to power in 1987. About 1,000 Serbs in this overwhelmingly ethnic Albanian province accused the opposition leaders of selling out the region to the Albanians. In Kraljevo, a central Serbian town, a cordon

of police prevented pro- and anti-Milosevic groups from attacking each other. They traded

insults and jeers, however.

Over 50,000 opposition supporters gathered in the second-largest town of Nis. In Pozarevac, Milosevic's hometown, police for the first time prevented an opposition protest march, but there were no incidents. Independent Belgrade newspapers said yes-

terday that Milosevic planned to transport up to 400,000 supporters from outside Belgrade to the rally. On average, 100,000 Belgraders have taken part in the daily anti-Milosevic protests. About 600 riot police were bused into

Belgrade yesterday and deployed on the outskirts of the capital where a huge force, including armored anti-riot vehicles, has been stationed since the opposition protests started.

Car bomb in Algiers kills three, wounds 70

ALGIERS (AP) - A powerful car bomb exploded near one of the capital's biggest cafes at lunchtime yesterday killing at least three people and wounding

70. authorities said. The bomb exploded at 12:45 p.m. (11:45 GMT) near the popular Milk Bar cafe, when the sidewalks and streets were filled with lunch-hour traffic. The blast also damaged a nearby pizzeria and shattered windows in nearby

buildings. The explosion was felt throughout central Algiers, and security forces quickly cordoned off the neighborhood near the city's port. A government statement said the attack killed three people and wounded 70. A hospital source said the bomb had killed several people. The source could not give

a precise death toll. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast. Islamic insurgents have waged a

3½-year war against the military-backed government that has left

more than 60,000 people dead. On Saturday, a bomb exploded at a high school near Algiers where many girls have refused to wear the traditional Moslem head scarf. One student was killed and another wounded.

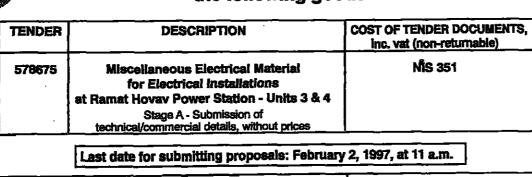
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No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid. NOTE. In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation

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<u>israel e</u>lectric חברת החשמל

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b. Participation in a tender is also subject to respecting the preliminary conditions, detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 5(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by the preliminary c. if a bidder does not attach any particular document or permit, license or any other required material, as required by the preliminary conditions, the Electric Corporation may allow the bidder to submit the missing material, within a period of time to be set by the Corporation. The tender documents may be obtained, Sunday - Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Dept., 11 Secrot Pai-Yam, Helia, between 9 a.m., and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment (non-returnable) of the cost of the documents, into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address (Tel. 04-86154554).
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NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).

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The rising misery index

OREIGN Minister David Levy may receive a hero's welcome in Beit She'an following his victories in the Knesset Finance Committee on Sunday. But if his supporters ever realize what he has done to them, they may run him out of town.

The changes the so-called "social lobby" made to the government's budget make it worse for the weaker classes of society, not better. Instead of reducing child allowances for middle- and upper-income families, the committee raised taxes - from 15 percent to 20 percent - on people making as little as NIS 1,640 to NIS 3,280 per month. Indeed, taxes were raised across the board by eliminating indexing for all of 1997 and, starting in 1998, adjusting tax rates for inflation only once a year instead of three times. The tax on gasoline, which is a regressive one like all sales taxes, will also go

One might think, judging from the behavior of the "social lobby", that the government wanted to cut the budget because it enjoys hurting people. In fact, it is not clear that even the cuts decided upon will be enough to spur economic growth, curb the trade deficit, and keep inflation

In the campaign leading up to the victory of Ronald Reagan over president Jimmy Carter in 1980, the term "misery index" was coined. The misery index was measured by adding the unemployment and inflation rates.

The direct result of the failure to cut the budget sufficiently will be a rise in Israel's misery index. The people who are made most miserable by a high misery index are the very people the "social lobby" claims to champion.

So the good people of Beit She'an, like the rest of us, could see taxes, unemployment and

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu claims that he has stood by his word not to raise taxes. This is a statement that needs a fair amount of explanation to be understood. The Finance Ministry estimates that the changes in tax indexation alone will net about NIS-850 million. In fact, out of the almost NIS 7 billion in budget "cuts", NIS 2 to 3 billion will be in tax hikes of one kind or another.

It's a far cry from the Thatcherite revolution that Netanyahu claims to be launching. The budget emerging from the Knesset Finance Committee could have been prepared by David Levy. Even before it became so bent out of shape as to be hardly recognizable, the budget did not represent any fundamental reordering of government priorities.

This is not a reform budget, but a muddle-

towards-preventing-disaster budget. If the government could not stand up to the "social lobby" and the industrialists (who blocked a cut in investment grants) over this budget, it is hard to see how it will have the political gumption to really transform the economy.

The fights ahead, over privatization and real structural budget cuts, are not for the fainthearted. The debate over what is really best for poor and middle class Israelis, shrinking government or making it more bloated, cannot be avoided.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor said in an interview published yesterday in Ha'aretz that he is "the chairman of the social lobby. I make sure that the weak will not be hurt. I just do it the correct way from an economic standpoint." Meridor is right, but the true test of the government's "chairmanship" is not only being right but standing up to David Levy. Why should the government let Levy get away with the claim that he, not they, is doing what is best for the weaker sectors?

Either the budget is socially responsible or it is not. If it is, the government should take its case directly to the development towns and debate who really is fighting for the interests of the lower and middle classes

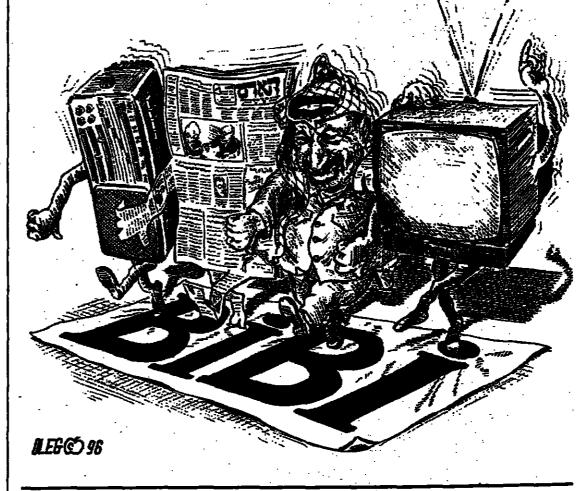
The government needs to get on the road and bring its case to the people. Last-minute speeches on television, such as Netanyahu and Meridor's joint appearance before the first Knesset vote, are a step in the right direction, but are not nearly enough.

Israel is rightly proud of the vigor of its democratic processes, but when it comes to the relationship between the government and the people, attitudes tend to be decidedly paternalistic. This can and should change.

The economic debate cannot remain within the walls of the Knesset, while the rest of the country deals with the results.

Netanyahu is sometimes accused of bringing an American style of politics to Israel. This may not be welcome when it comes to shallow, polished media campaigns. But Israel could benefit from an American-style impulse to build policies not just on political power but "grassroots" popular support.

Democratizing the economic debate is necessary to achieve economic reform in Israel; it is also a worthy goal in its own right. At first it might not be considered "normal" for government ministers to fan out across the country to bring their case to the people. Fundamental change of the sort the government is trying to accomplish demands, however, a willingness to depart from politics as usual.



Christians, Jews and Israel

TNLIKE in other parts of the world, one barely feels Christmas in Israel The only way we feel the onrush of the Christmas season is by the Christian tourists who flood the country at this time of year.

They visit here "come hell or high water"; that is, "come Scud missiles or suicide bombings." If only that were the case with Jews! Ah, but it is the case... with Orthodox Jews. It seems that there is a direct correlation between the intense theological belief in Israel that Orthodox Jews hold and the devout spiritual attachments to Israel that many Christians have.

During the Gulf war, American Jews bailed out en masse. From New England alone, some 25 non-Orthodox Jewish tour groups to Israel canceled their trips here. Not one Christian group canceled its visit. Yeshiva University filled a chartered plane with 450 of its students to come here to identify with Israel.

SO WHERE is the involvement of the non-Orthodox American, lewish community in Israel? We most dramatically in that community's legitimate protest to any changes in the Law of Return that would affect the status of non-Orthodox conversions to Judaism.

But their opposition to such changes seems to be reflected only in verbal posturing. When it comes to grass-roots work in Israel, the majority of the American Jewish community which raises the banner of religious freedom is dwarfed by the commitment, in both financial and human terms, of its Orthodox counterparts.

DAVID FORMAN

help Russian immigrants, many whose Judaism is in doubt. They raise \$40 million to buy up lands in the territories, thus furthering their ideological interests in

By comparison, non-Orthodox

While the religious right in Israel enjoys support from its counterparts in America, we liberal folks are left on our own

religious movements, human rights groups, peace organiza-tions in Israel - all of whom reflect the ideological views of the majority of American Jews go begging for money. Proclamations by the son Orthodox American Jewish Community about Israel's settlement policy, religious pluralism and economic justice lose credibility when meaningful support is lack-

important in the overall impact upon Israeli society than is the human contribution. This human factor relates to two areas; aliya and tourism. There is virtually no aliya from the United States. What little there is comes from the Orthodox community, which

But financial aid is no more

(After all, Orthodox Jews make up only 18% of the American Jewish community.) In terms of tourism: one indication of trouble brewing in the Middle East, and non-Orthodox American Jews run for cover.

One can only conclude that there is a direct relationship between genuine religious fervor and the ideological role that Israel plays in the minds of those who possess such a powerful divine trust.

The secular Jewish community in America does not possess this theological will. The question is whether it holds any historical and/or sentimental attachments to Israel.

As for non-Orthodox religious Jews in America, one would expect that their authenticity as self-defined religious Jews would stem from the theological role that Israel plays in their

But this does not seem to be the case. While the religious right in Israel, both Christian and Jewish, enjoys support from its counterparts in America, we liberal folks are left on our own

to a new reality: that even with a threat of a renewed intifada katyushas, killings in Beit El, and possible war with Syria, this Christmas season will still bring out Christian tourists; and the long winter holidays in America will still bring out American Orthodox Jews. These two segments of the American community may be the only true Diaspora believers in Israel.

dwarfs the non-Orthodox The writer is a free-lance Diaspora Jewish community in For example, Habad rushes to writer living in Jerusalem relative and absolute terms.

HE Israelis are trying to Judaize Arab East Jerusalem." All friends of Israel, of whatever faith, whatever thoughts about achieving Israeli-Palestinian peace, should grasp what meanings lie

beneath those words. They have been used in public often, but until recently only by Arabs for whom control of Jerusalem is a goal never to be abandoned and hatred of Jews never forgotten.

Now it pops up in the Western press as a dangerous reality. The Dec. 23 issue of Newsweek, in its "news" columns, says as a matter of regrettable fact that religious Jews are "part of an effort to Judaize Arab East Jerusalem.' Even when the specific words are not used, the meaning is often clear, as in a recent 60 Minutes segment on Jerusalem.

The thrust is plain: Any plans of Jews to live in any part of Jerusalem to which Palestinians lay particular claim at the moment is wrong and will destroy the chances for peace.

"Judaization" charge is of utmost importance to those who wish Israel to live free and proud. The right to live anywhere is separate from the decision to

The attitude behind the

exercise that right at any given A case might be argued that this is not the time for more Jews, no matter how few, to set

up homes in the eastern part of their capital or the West Bank. But to deny the right of Jews to live anywhere in Israel makes them lesser in nationhood than any other people. "Judaization." It is an accusa-

tion: Jews who live in neighborhoods demographically Arab are interlopers in their capital, pushing in where they have no right to be, threatening the daily lives and religions of the real Jerusalemites.

A.M. ROSENTHAL

"Judaization." Those who use the word should say it more plainly: the Jewing of Jerusalem. I asked a colleague the word that sprang to mind when he heard Judaization

recalls the antonym Judenrein. Arabs are familiar

accusation: Jews who live in neighborhoods that are demographically Arab are interlopers in their capital

EIGHT former secretaries of state and national security advisers in a letter to Israel, endorsed quickly by President Clinton, warned Israel against "unilateral" action - meaning increasing settlements on the West Bank or anywhere.

But the warning is that more settlers could destroy peace. This amounts to advance justification of any Palestinian attack against settlers on the grounds, true or

ment was drafted at least three weeks earlier, held up so as not to jeopardize the Hebron talks. It was released after Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu made remarks they thought meant more settlers.

This is what the statement did not say: Long before Israel's creation and ever since, Arabs have' been fighting not "settlements" in any particular place, but the very presence of Jews among

Mr. Netanyahu has problems. Shimon Peres runs around as if he were still prime minister. Washington wishes he were. Cabinet members threaten to deprive Netanyahu of the votes of their vassals in the Knesset. Yasser Arafat wins one propaganda victory after another; he shows himself as smart as any Israeli prime minister.

And foreign governments constantly denounce Israel - a situation that arises because it was so ordained that the Arabs would get the oil and the Jews the

Netanyahu is not yet setting the world on fire. He has not shown the leadership, eloquence and intellectual power that people expected from a man who made his mark as a great communica-

He promised major liberalization in the Israeli economy. When? His friends do not know if he will accept a "unity" government that would share power with Labor or reject it as millifying his election. But one job he should do quickly.

Peace is feasible technically and even politically. But under Labor of Likud, it will not endure as long as Palestinians and their apologists talk of the Israeli Jews as interlopers.

It is Mr. Netanyahu's urgent task to explain that to the world. All who hold worthy the concept of Israel must understand what it means - this talk of Judaization, the Jewing of Jerusalem.

(Courtesy of the New York

Trust & **Tactics**

REUVEN HAMMER

THERE may have been a time when israel's rabbinate was interested to acting in an enlightened manufer and could be trusted with difficult and delicate social problems. That time is long past.

In this day and age, it is inconceivable that Israel should be increasing the power of the rabbinical courts, is it not bad coough that they control marriage and divorce? Should they now have a monopoly on conversions done in Israel, too?

This is just what a proposed law aims to confer. Why - aside from coalition politics - should anyone want to increase their power?
The acute problem of conver-

sions should concern all Israelis. Aside from those who wish to convert and cannot because of the blindness of the Chief Rabbinate and its stubborn insistence on the most stringent interpretations of Jewish law, two major groups are affected: immagnants from the former Soviet Union and parents of adopted children. We are talking about tens of thousands of people whose lack of Jewish status threatens to cause overwhelming social problems.

If spouses of Jews, and children and grandchildren of Jews canaca convert, we are perpetuating in intolerable situation. No one is forcing these people into Judaism. They are coming willingly, wanting to identify with the Jewish people and its traditions, and our religious establish-

ment is driving them away. Minister Natan Sharansky has said that he wants to give the rabbinate a chance to solve this problem, and he believes it when it says it will do so. How long is he willing to wait? With years to

Giving away our freedoms to the rabbinical courts is something any rational society would avoid like the plaque

prove itself, all the rabbinate has shown is how stubborn it is, how unwilling to confront the needs

Adopted children are another major problem. Unless converted before coming to Israel, they cannot be registered as Jews. The rabbinate here refuses to convert them unless the family adheres to the most rigid standards of observance. In effect the government is creating a situation whereby only the Orthodox can adopt.

The rabbinical court of the Masorti Movement converts more than 100 people each year and would be converting hundreds more were our conversions registered in the Interior Ministry. It is a crime to allow political machinations to prevent

THE government should know that US lewry - at whom its brilliant move is clearly also aimed is not that gullible.

I recently spent several months in the US meeting rabbis, leaders laypeople of Conservative Movement there. Their concern has never been exclusively conversions performed in America but the rights of the Masorti Movement here and the status of religious freedom in Israel.

They are concerned as Jews and not as Americans - at what they see as a further erosion of democratic values and religious freedom for all Jews in Israel.

As one who tries to promote love and support of Israel - yes, even aliya! ~ among American Jews, I have found that task harder and harder, as politics and religion become ever more entwined.

This latest tactic will certainly not help. It is impossible to address a Conservative audience about Israel without being asked about this issue. And it is wellnigh impossible to justify our government's action when it is so obviously giving in to the demands of a minority against the interests of the majority, and indeed against the good of the State and the future of Judaism.

The more power given to the rabbinate, the more coercive laws get enacted, the less Israel's secular population will look positively at Jewish tradition and attempt to create the synthesis we so badly need between Judaism and democracy.

Giving away our freedoms to the rabbinical courts is an act of suicide that any rational society or government would avoid like

The writer is head of the rabbinic court for conversions of the Rabbinical Assembly of Israel.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ENTRENCHED **WEAKER CLASSES**

Sir. - In his article of December 13, Yosef Goell grills the newly elected prime minister for not being Robin Hood. The big question is: "Do we need another

For decades our country was "privileged" to have successive Robin Hood governments bravely robbing the rich, giving the proceeds to the poor, and, in the process, not forgetting themselves, relatives and friends. The East European socialists introduced the young nation to a maddening mixture of Bolshevism, Peronism, and Zionism. At least we can say that the "Zionist" part worked - that is,

we are still here. The continuous care of the "weaker classes" of our society in effect stimulated the development of such "weaker classes." The next became logical step Brooklynization" of Israeli society where children of the fastgrowing "weaker class" parents inherit, like nobility, the "gimme"

mentality. The "Robin Hood" taxation policies continue to drive Israeli manufacturing enterprises either toward bankruptcy or to the manufacturing-friendly Far East, and Israeli finance to the offshore tax havens. Can society remain healthy while half of its members enjoy their tenure by nonstop talking and drinking coffee, while the other half is working hard trying to sell to one another life insur-

ance policies? If the unholy Gesher-Labor-Meretz-Hadash-Shas alliance busts the budget, would not this result in a further proliferation of the "weaker classes"? Should not the attempt be made to break this vicious cycle by introducing a healthy portion of Reaganism-Thatcherism? And will the wellmeaning prime minister's attempt be squashed by a bulldozer of the entrenched mentality - "it is not what I can do for my country, it is what my country can do for me."

BORIS VOLFSON

Haifa.

Ra'anana.

to our history.

Sir, - I am disgusted by a road-side billboards located all over Israel, which feature a Native American wearing a headdress and an extremely large Visa card covering half of his face. This is a truly awful display of insensitivity at the least. I am surprised at how the billboards could have been raised throughout the country and remain standing for months now without a response from the Israeli

HUMAN DIGNITY

Over 15 million Native Americans have died from war or introduced disease over the past few hundred years, on top of the fact that the ways of life of all the Native nations have themselves been all but erased from the continent on which they once thrived. By and large, this genocide has taken place because they have been perceived as obstacles to European, American and Canadian economic conquest. Rights to sacred places are still being taken away by the American and Canadian governments in

interests to increase profits. The grim expression on the face of the Native American, hidden behind the unmistakable symbol of wealth, is eerily ironic. Visa has unlimited advertising techniques at its disposal, but it appears clear that lessons of human dignity and respect still need to be learned by modern agents of economic power and prestige.

order for logging and mining

KEVIN AARON

Kibbutz Ketura.

IMPORTANT DATE Sit. - The Jerusalem Post of November 29 completely ignored the historic significance of this date.

Kaf-Tet be-November and Independence Day signify the culmination of the Zionist undertaking. Especially the Post, which is read by new immigrants, diplomats and foreigners all over the world, should pay more attention

FRED STMONS

Sir. - Barry Rubin's analysis of American future foreign policy

AMERICAN FUTURE

FOREIGN POLICY

vis-à-vis the "peace process (November 15) is solid, but lacking on two counts: (1) intervention by the Clinton Administration into the Israeli election was blatant and quite open in its support for Labor and Peres (It was trumpeted in the American Jewish community by supporters of Labor); and (2) the Clinton Administration will be constrained from being anti-Israeli because of the Al Gore factor (a vice-president who hopes to inherit the electoral politics).

It may even emerge that a third factor will come into play -Clinton's shift to the "center" means a return to the pro-Israel orientation of the Democratic Leadership Council (Al Gore's moorings as well as that of the neoconservative Democrats). I think Barry Rubin's contrary prospects would only have had short-term possibilities if Clinton had chosen a liberal-left secretary of state (a 1960s product currently present in his administration in other capacities but clearly at odds with Al Gore's needs and expectations).

BERNARD SCHECHTERMAN,

Professor, International Relations. Foreign Policy and Middle East Affairs, University of Miami Coral Gables, Florida.

HUMAN SENSITIVITY Sir, - In contrast to many other

reporters, Sarah Honig has done a consistently outstanding job of reporting on political events in an objective manner. Now, in her opinion article concerning the response of the world media and the diplomatic corps to the murder of a mother and her child by Arab terrorists (December 13), she has put into words the feelings of many Israelis. She is to be complimented for her ability to maintain the proper balance between a reporter's professional objectivity and human sensitivity.

JAY SHAPIRO Ginot Shormron.

'Judaizing Jerusalem'

"Hymietown," he said. For me,

'Judaization.' It is an

with that. It is what they accomplished when Jordan occupied the West Bank from 1948 to 1967 - all Jews out."

They certainly do not talk of Judaization.

false, that they were newcomers, Two signers told me the state-





Clockwise from top left: Tasmin Archer, Meir Banai, R.E.M., Bruce Springsteen, The Beatles,

Best and worst of '96

HE highlights of 1996 were not as high as in some previous years, but there is still great rock 'n' roll being made years after it was declared dead. I have no illusions that I've listened to even a tenth of the music released this year, but from the couple of hundred discs that have crossed my path, here are some that stood out for better or worse.

Best Debut Ke'- | AM [] An expertly crafted singer-songwriter effort by someone who

THIS LAST WEEKS ON

WEEK WEEK CHARTS

15

20

NEW!

#6

#7

報 約 約 計0

#11

#12

#13

#14

#15

DAVID BRINN

writes and performs like a seasoned veteran.

Best singles Tasmin Archer - "One More Good night with the Boys" Me'shell Ndegeocello – "Free My Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers -

OD ME'AT

SECRETS

EVITA

SPICE

TANGO

BEST OF ...

SHNAIM

PAVAROTTI & FRIENDS FOR WAR CHILD

LE ROI EST MORT

TRAGIC KINGDOM

BEST DISCO IN TOWN 2

SPIRIT OF THE WORLD

COLLECTION

COLLECTION

Weezer - "Pink Triangle" **TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15**

ARTIST EHUD BANAI

SPICE GIRLS

RAMI KLEINSTEIN

JULIO IGLESIAS

VAYA CON DIOS

SHLOMO ARTZI

GEORGE MICHAEL

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

ENIGMA

OST

TONI BRAXTON

Worst single Spice Girls – "Wannabie"

Best compilation
Sweet Relief II - The Songs of Vic Chestnutt Oasis - The Singles

Best Israeli albums Meir Banai - Wandering Tune Wild Weed - Wild Weed Rami Kleinstein - Collection

.Comeback of the Year The Beatles

Best Albums Sleeper - The It Girl Bruce Springsteen - The Ghost of Tom Joad Pearl Jam - No Code

REM - New Adventures in Hi-Fi Paul Westerberg - Eventually Rolling Stones - Rock and Roll Circus Skunk Anansie - Stoosh

The Lemonheads - Car Button

Worst Album

Prince - Emancipation Most fun local musical events Grateful Dead video night at the

Tel Aviv Cinematheque. The next best thing to being at the real thing.

Reggae Festival at Achziv Beach. Pack up your troubles and smile.









Treat for the eyes THEATER REVIEW

NAOMI DOUDAI

Odessa Tales, adapted for the stage from Isaac Babel's short stories and directed by Yevgeny Arye. Hebrew, Nih Mirsky and Mark Iwanir. Set. Alexander Lisiyansky. Costumes, Anna Kruscheva. Lighting, Bueno Avi Yonah (Bambi). Music, Avi Binyamin. Hebrew title, Ir. At the Gesher Theater,

ITH a director of unceasing creative ingenuity and fertility, and a team of performers whose artistic skills and talents outshine those of almost all other Israeli players, a Gesher production is almost always refreshing and rewarding. It is always and forever total theater.

As far as mise en scene and presentation are concerned, Odessa Tales is no exception. An innovative technique of transferring storytelling to staged realization brings Babel to life for us. A set that consists of criss-crossing rails on which symbolic images from the tales dart across the stage on trolleys, is a telling transposition from interature to theater.

Actors like Boris Achanov, Yevgeny Gamburg, Natalya Voitulevitch-Manor (her serving-girl Irina, a real bombshell), Leonid Kanievsky, Roland Heilovsky, are a treat for present-day stagescarred eyes. They are now joined by a number of young Israeli-born actors, three of whom - Dror Keren, Amnon Wolf, Effi Ben-Tzur

here do their Russian mentors proud. The ongoing Israelification of the company is palpable too in the improvement in the spoken Hebrew of the Russian-born actors. In the case of the Tales, however, the dramaturgy leaves much to be desired as does some of the casting. While the various personae are presented with vivacity in a retrospective parody injected with oldtime burlesque, the crafting of the tales themselves is often weak. Fictions like Jesus' Sin or The Story of the Pigeon Fancier, that begin in a

Prozess von Schamgorod (The Schamgorod Trial) by Riie Wiesel. Direction, Peter Sodan, Costumes, Rolf Klein. Neues Theater, Halle, Germany. A German-language production at the

burst of brilliance, too often end in

a chaotic whimper.

Cameri, Tel Aviv in an inter-cultural exchange with that theater. Hebrew title, Hamishpot shel Schungorod.

A RECIPIENT of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986, it goes without saying that Elie Wiesel is a provocative personality, a powerful writer with a fascinating mind and interesting ideas. A competent play-wright, however, he emphatically is not.

In other words, The Schamgorod Trial is not theater. It is literature of the most polemic, pontificating sort. Arid intellectuals apart, the three hours during which we had to endure the endless discussion, speculation, cerebration, on the subject of evil, love and the nature of God, was pure punishment to a captive audience that stuck it out probably out of politeness or because they had paid dearly for their tickets.

Without a play proper, this pro-duction was a mission impossible. But if nonetheless the former East German company (six actors and a stage populated by masses of empty chairs) came here confident that the material - a drama of pogroms - would suit Israeli audiences, their performance failed to back up their obviously good intentions. Together with the writer, the director as well as the actors failed to prove themselves possessed of any recognizable professional stage penchant.

It is little short of scandalous that the Cameri, advised in advance of the questionably theatric quality of the material, did not think to spare a largely Alte Yekkeland audience, many of them probably veteran readers of this paper, the cultural distress and disappointment, not to mention expense of so grueling an evening.

This could have been avoided by presenting the production as an evening of dramatized discussion. which it honestly is. Offered more modestly in less pretentious studio conditions, it might have had a better reception. Failing that, realized as a visual form of radio drama, it might have found a proper, and perhaps more rewarding perspec-

Bronfman's love affair with the IPO continues

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

IGHTEEN years ago, a-20-**¶** year-old Russian-born pianist played the Liszt Second Piano Concerto with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Last Tuesday at the Mann Auditorium, anist, renm Bror played the same concerto with the same orchestra during the festive celebrations of the orchestra's 60th anniversary.

Bronfman cannot find enough words to describe his long, ongoing emotional relationship with the orchestra. "The IPO is very special to me. My whole life is connected to the orchestra. I started my career with the orchestra and ever since I have had very close ties with it. I was in Israel virtually every year and I also played with them on tour in South America, Australia, Europe and the USA."

The IPO is much more than a

mere musical friend. Bronfman's Brahms's first, Beethoven's third sister and her husband are orchestra members. "The orchestra means at lot to me. It's like home, so now it's like celebrating your own birth-

He continues that he has met "some of the great musicians I h the IPO, from [Zubin] Mehta and [Leonard] Bernstein to [Daniel] Barenboim. The orchestra always attracted great people and I have always learned so much about music-making here. Certainly the IPO has a very strong gravity for me and my

He adds that it is always great to play here because "Israel has a great public which is hard to compare to anywhere else."

Bronfman is a regular guest on our concert stages. For example, at the end of March, he returns to play six concerts with the IPO featuring three concerti within one week:

and Rachmaninoff's third. And during the current celebrations lies still has four more concerns of a varied repertoire.

But he is not complaining, quite the contrary. "I enjoy playing a lot. I always say that musicians should be paid for the traveling away from home but not for playing because playing is fun." Although Bronfman has an apart-

ment in New York and is also currently looking for place in London, Israel is his real home and he makes a point of coming here up to four times each year to visit his family. Bronfman is also a very active

recording pianist with over 25 discs to his credit including the entire Prokofiev concerti with Mehta and the IPO.

vears with discs featuring some of

He recently renewed his contract the standard warhorses of the with Sony for an additional five



Yefim Bronfman just can't get enough of the IPO.

repertoire as well as more contemporary works.

"There is a change in the classical music scene and sales of discs are not good, so disc companies are looking for new ways of presenting music and one is new music." American Elliot Goldenthal, who writes a lot for Hollywood and is famous for his Fire Water Paper: A *Vietnam Oratorio*, is writing a concerto for piano and trumpet which will be recorded by Bronfman and Wynton Marsalis together with the concerto Shostakovich wrote for these instruments.

Yefim Bronfman plays Saint-Saens' Second Piano Concerto tomorrow in Jerusalem with Zubin Mehta leading the International Symphony Orchestra.

On Thursday (Tel Aviv) and Saturday (Jerusalem) he plays the piano solo in Beethoven's Triple Concerto with the Mehta and IPO and on Friday he repeats his rendition of the Liszt second concerto in

A sensitive tale well told

URY EPPSTEIN

ERHAPS the most basic paradox underlying the para-dox-studded Tales of Hoffmann is that its composer, Jacques Offenbach, a founding father of French operetta, was a German Jew who made his first acquaintance with music through the cantorial chanting of his hazan father. It should therefore not be surprising that Offenbach, more than anyone before or after him, was sensitive to the tragic life of E.T.A. Hoffmann; and that as seen through his ironic Jewish eyes, under their thin French guise, this German-Romantic poet, composer, lawyer and music critic should have been depicted as the typical schlimazel: the perennial unfortu-

nate, in this, his one had only serious opera. Antonio Nagore, in the title role, displayed an ardent, warm-blooded lyric tenor. Marina Levitt's clear, bright and radiant soprano, as Antonia, sometimes sounded more robust than one would expect from

soprano Susanna Poretsky, as "Giulietta, had just the right seductive timbre to make her a credible femme fatale.

Vladimir Braun's baritone, as the authoritative father-figure Cresperl, had a degree of blackness that would have served well the supposedly Satanic baritone Richard Paul Fink, who sounded strained and not quite as evil and menacing as he should have.

Nicklans's voice, represented by Constance Fee, lacked stability and made one wonder why she should have made the not very convincing transition from mezzo-soprano to

soprano. Conductor Frederic Chaslin held the Rishon Lezion Symphony Orchestra in firm grip, injecting energy and drive into the proceed-

And the lighting of designer Giuseppe di Iorio was enlivened by some imaginative, effective shad-

ow-play.

The Tel Aviv Opera House, December 14.

a frail tuberculosis patient. Mezzo-

Perlman and Zukerman combine in angelic tandem

Symphony Jerusalem Orchestra's Subscription Concert No. 2, conducted by Steven Sloane, were performances of two rarely played works. The performance of these works were special because they were for solo instruments seldom encountered: Sergei Koussevitzky's Concerto for double-bass and Giovanni Bottesini's Passioni Amorose for

two double basses. The overpowering double bass. which naturally arouses expectations of an overwhelming sound, surprised the audience with its weak, understated tone and volume. The agility and flexibility produced from such an unwieldylooking instrument, played by soloist Franco Petracchi, was also unexpected and attests to the fact that Petracchi is a veritable virtuoso who takes technical hurdles in

his stride. Koussevitzky's work is a product of necessity, created to supply a soloist's need of enlarging his instrument's meager repertoire. Availing himself of all the commonplace Romantic ingredients,

WO major attractions of the such as sentimentality and virtuoso fireworks, his would have made the best impression if left

> mwritten. Bottesini's divertimento is, likewise, harmlessly entertaining, though melodious and technically demanding. Orchestra member Haya Yosha joined Petracchi in a brilliant, light-fingered performance. Sloane's rendition of Mussorgsky-Ravel's Pictures at an Exhibition was colorful, energy-charged and led appropriately to the pompous climax of the "Great Gate of Kiev." Jerusalem Theater, December

Ury Eppstein

THE ISRAEL Philharmonic Orchestra's 60th anniversary celebrations are a series of ongoing highlights which are riveting, invigorating and sweeping. It is not easy to select the best performance during the first three evenings but the most complete were the two orchestral selections. Zubin Mehta led his orchestra in

CONCERT ROUNDUP

Unfinished Symphony. This rendition shifted perpetually between various opposing poles, from introvert to extrovert, from piano to forte in a most sublime way. The orchestra responded in the best possible way to Mehta's sensitive baton and together they played this masterpiece in a way which rediscovered it for the audi-

The orchestra also excelled in Richard Strauss's Till Eulenspiegel, a short and very dramatic opus which moves quickly from tender poetic moments to full-scale dramatic outbursts. It was a stunning rendition which would not put to shame any major orchestra worldwide. The soloists were some of the best musicians in the world today. Murray Perahia topped his Mozart from the previous week with a spellbinding rendition of Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto, a very introvert performance in which he delved deep into the essence of the composition, drawing from it all its

minute subtleties and enormous riches.

In contrast, Yefim Bronfman presented a towering technical bonanza in Liszt's Second Piano Concerto. Mischa Maisky played Bloch's Schelomo with passion, drama, soul and power with Mehta and the orchestra supporting in an impressive manner. And to top all this came Itzhak Perlman and Pinchas Zukerman, two very good friends who just happen to be two of the greatest violinists in the world. They played, always in tandem, two concern and four

sonatas, without ever trying to upstage one another. Each time they played it was as if we heard a conversation between angelic minstrels.

In addition, when Zukerman was playing the viola the combination between the darker viola and the violin was simply gripping. In short there was not one dull moment throughout these three concerts, and luckily there is still more to come.

Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv, December 17, 18, 19. Michael Ajzenstadt

Bentonoff's riveting performance

OMETHING very unusual, perhaps even unique, hap-pened in the Hedi Steinberg Auditorium of the Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem on December 15.

Deborah Bentonoff, one of our veteran "greats" in the performing arts. appeared solo for over an hour in a program that kept a full

Her text was based on stories from her life, on the joys and sorrows of memory, shaped into stage form by Dorona Ben-Dor and enhanced by only a few

The occasion was intended to honor a medical colleague of the center but it was also appropriate in that it marked and celebrated Jerusalem 3000. Dora Sowden

A lonely ray of sunshine

a very sincere, powerful and dra-

matic reading of Schubert's

Trio, Vain Ode, C.F.C. performed by the Batsheva Ensemble, at the Inhal Auditorium (premieres). Curtain 2 at Suzanne Dellal Auditorium (premiere)

F the six new works presented, a single, lonely one stood out as a ray of sunshine in an otherwise dreary, drawn-out evening. It started with the Batsheva Ensemble's Trio by Noa Dar, Vain Ode by Lara Barsacq and C.F.C. by Sa'ar

All three choreographers proved that their talent lies elsewhere. The

DANCE REVIEW ORA BRAFMAN

program simply didn't soar. Curtain 2 consisted of three more choreographed pieces by Inbal Pinto, Amiel Malale and

Shelee Gonen. Only one qualified for the job of the savior, that ray of light: Wrapped by Pinto.

At times she resembled Danny Ezralow with that out-of-nowhere sense of humor that is crazy, yet crystal clear in its warped logic. The group of seven dancers were well-trained in theatrics and were a pure delight to watch, as were the stage production and costume design, done by Pinto herself.

The remaining two works by Gonen and Malale reflect directly on Eran Baniel, the artistic director. He was the choice of the Public Council for Culture, who preferred to nominate as artistic director of a major dance event a complete stranger to dance world.

Unfortunately, Baniel "bought" many poor works, since he could not separate the wheat from the

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"family Nouns presented with grammatical gender plus plural Adjectives presented in singular

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THE JERUSALEM

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tuesday, December 24, 1996

cuts rates 0.5%

DAVID HARRIS

over monetary policy.

The bank is continuing to urge

the government to implement the

full NIS 7 billion budget-cut pro-

posal, which is about to face sec-

ond and third readings in the

Knesset, while not bowing to pres-

sure and raising taxes. Bank sources have indicated there will

only be a substantial decrease in

interest rates once it becomes clear

the budget cuts are being compre-

Currency markets were largely

unchanged ahead of the interest-

rate announcement, which was

made at 4.30 p.m. The dollar was

Stocks rose in anticipation of a

cut in interest rates, and were also

buoyed by the prospect of a break-through in the Hebron redeploy-

ment talks. The Maof index rose

The Manufacturers Association

instantly responded by calling for

a 2% to 3% reduction, given the

likely success of the Treasury in

According to section 31(b)(2) of the Joint Investment Trusts Law, 5764-1994, (hereinafter: "the Law").

passing the 1997 budget.

MUTUAL FUNDS MANAGERS LEUMI IGUD LTD.

Notice is hereby given that a prospectus has been published whereby:

increment (see, however, paragraph 6 of Chapter A of the Prospectus).

plus a 1% or less increment, as detailed in Chapter A of this Prospectus.

Offering of Units to Foreign Residents* Only

any other fund being managed by it.

0.65% to end the day at 218.59.

little changed at NIS 3.264.

hensively implemented.

THE Bank of Israel's key shortterm lending rate will be lowered by 50 basis points to 14.7 percent next month, the central bank announced yesterday.

That completes a cumulative 2.3% rate-cut since August.

The decision was taken in the

light of the effects of the tight, recent monetary policy, according to a statement from the bank. This has brought about a lowering in inflation - currently running at an . annual 10.5% - and the desired increase in the money supply (M1). This slowing in inflation has only become apparent in the second half of the year, and consequently a reduction in interest rates has only recently become possible. Just a few months ago, it appeared the annual rate of inflation would reach 15%.

Looking ahead, the bank said, for the time being it appears the 1997 inflation rate is heading for the upper limit of the Treasury approved 7% to 10% target. Therefore, the central bank intends keeping a tight reign

PSAGOT 3

Bank of Israel Gov't unveils schedule for banks' sales in '97

> MI HOLDINGS, the state firm in charge of selling government companies, intends to sell shares in at least one bank in each quarter of next year, the company's general manager Meir Yacobson yesterday said.

> The government, he said, intends to privatize three large banks in 1997. The company intends to issue Bank Discount shares in February. Bank Leumi will go on the block in the middle of the year, and Bank Mizrahi in the second half.

Speaking at an Hanot Discount investors conference Sunday evening, Yacobson said "the market today is in a very difficult sit-uation. One of the aims, is to use privatization as an instrument to develop the local market, to increase the size and liquidity of the market by bringing in quality companies," said Yacobson.

To develop the local capital market, Yacobson believes it is necessary to increase foreign investors' involvement, especially institutional investors who generally make long-term bets.

PROSPECTUS

MUTUAL FUND

PSAGOT GLOBE

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

According to Yacobson, foreign investors' interest tends to encourage local investors to buy shares. Taking the government's public offering of Bank Discount as an example, Yacobsed interest in the cale only after the shares in the sale only after the shares were snapped up by foreign investors. European institutional investors purchased more than half of the 13.5 million Bank Discount shares offered in

Foreign investments also have a significant role to play in insuring company's have a realistic valuation, said Yacobson. El-Rov shares have increased more than 70% over the past month as a result of US fund manager George Soros decision to invest

in the company. The manager said it is not possible to simultaneously sell controlling interests in a company and sell new issues. He emphasized that when evaluating a company's worth it is incorrect to

compare the stock price of a public offering to financial investors with the price of selling a controlling interest.

"These are two different markets, two different methods of sale and two types of target audiences," said Yacobson.

In reaction to criticism of the governments' bank privatization, Yacobson said, criticism cannot be avoided. "Even in England, where the privatization program was successful, there was criticism that companies were issued at low prices," said Yacobson.

Porush: ILA land sales too slow

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

DEPUTY Housing Minister Meir Porush criticized the Israel Lands Administration (ILA) yesterday for its slow pace of land sales. According to Porush, a shortage in land is likely to lead to a rise in housing prices during the next few

years.
While Porush aims to reduce the government's involvement in the real estate sector, he empha-

sized it is necessary to continue to help low-income earners, primarily via government housing benefits to eligible residents "The cut in the budget has not hindered mortgages. It is true that

mortgages have not yet been adjusted, there is a committee in charge of this which is expected to present its conclusions in March," In the October-November period

housing sales grew 25 percent, according to Porush, thus indicating that the slowdown in the housing market has come to an end, Porush said. Over the past year the real estate

market has suffered from a slowdown in sales, mainly because of high mortgage rates. Porush said the last few months of increased sales is primarily due to a drop in :

Speaking at a real estate conference yesterday, Porush said housing construction starts are expected to reach almost 50,000 in 1996, very close to the ministry's target and significantly higher than contractors earlier forecasts of only 35,000-40,000 units.

American General to buy Home Beneficial

HOUSTON (Reuter) - American General Corp., one of the nation's largest diversified financial services groups, said yesterday it has a defintive agreement to acquire Home

Beneficial Corp. for \$665 million.

American General, one of the most aggressive buyers in the consolidating insurance industry, said Home Beneficial shareholders can choose to be paid in either cash or common stock under the \$39 per share deal.

Up to half the total price will be paid in cash, and up to 75 percent in American General stock.

The news sent Home Beneficial's stock surging \$8.75 or almost 30% early on the Nasdaq Stock Market. American General edged down 12.5 cents to \$40.125 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Home Beneficial is an excel-

lent strategic fit with our Nashville-based life insurance subsidiary," said Robert M. Devlin, president and chief executive of American General. Through the combination of

these two companies, we believe we can achieve economies of scale resulting in annual expense savings of \$20 million." The deal is expected to close at

the end of March and stop weighing on earnings within a year after that, he said.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Northern Telecom buys 20% of Telrad: Northern Telecom Ltd., an international telecommunications company, exercised an option to buy 20% of Telrad's share capital for \$45 million, the companies informed the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday.

Telrad is a wholly owned subsidiary of Koor. The shares will be purchased through a share allocation. According to the agreement Noted will pay \$17.5 million in cash and \$27.5 m. in four

Northern Telecom received the option as part of an agreement installments. concluded at the start of January. The company had until the end of the year to exercise its option.

Dead Sea Magnesium cast first ingots: Dead Sea Magnesium cast its first magnesium ingots yesterday on the shores of the Dead Sea. The company said it's the first time metal was manufactured in Israel since King Solomon cast his copper at Etzion Gaver 3,000

The company said it intends to become one of the world's four largest producers of magnesium. At full capacity, the plant is capable of producing 27,000 tons per annum.

Maritime Bank agrees to buy 37% of Bank Carmel: Maritime Bank agreed to buy about 37% of Bank Carmel's shareholders equity for about NIS 60m. Following the bank's announcement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, Maritime shares increased the

The agreement is part of Carmel's plan to expand into commercial banking. The bank is currently active mainly in the mortgage sector. Carmel is among the smallest mortgage and investment banks in the country, while Maritime is one of the smaller commercial banks. Galit Lipkis Beck

PM refuses to set inflation target for 2001

DAVID HARRIS

Netanyahu has so far declined to commit himself to a projected inflation level by 2001.

During last week's meeting with Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, it became clear there was difference of opinion between the Treasury and the central bank as to the desired long-term infla-

While Meridor and Frenkel agreed the 1997 target should be set between / percent to 10%, mey failed to agree on that which would be desired by 2001.

Both men agree Israel should aim to have a similar inflation level to those of industrialized countries, but they cannot agree on which nations that should include.

Frenkel favors the International Monetary Fund definition, while Meridor argues Israel should link itself to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development framework.

The difference between the two in 1996 has been substantial. The IMF list shows three overall infla-

PRIME Minister Binyamin tion averages: 2.3% for the Group of Seven countries; 2.7% for other industrialized countries; and 2.6% across the European Union.

The OECD list, which includes inflationary countries such as Turkey (79.3%) and Mexico (30.0%), shows an average 4.6% The final decision as to which

long-term rate should be tracked lies with Netanyahu. "The matter is still being examined," deputy Prime Minister's Office spokesman Ofir Akoonis said yesterda "This is something I'd rather not

talk about." Office deputy direc-tor-general Moshe Leon, one of Netanyahu's top economic advisers, said on Sunday.

Netanyahu, Meridor, and Frenkel all attach great signifi-cance to reducing inflation as soon as possible. This has lead to numerous attacks on Frenkel by the Manufacturers Association, Its president, Dan Propper, argues Frenkel is obsessed by this single aim and should also turn his attention to other aspects of monetary

EL Al: Christmas tourism on the rise

HAIM SHAPIRO

IN what could be the first sign of a recovery in the tourism industry, El Al this week reported a flurry of last-minute reservations for Christmas from the US.

El Al spokesman Nachman Klieman said yesterday that there has been a major increase in the number of passengers during the past two weeks. This month, he said, the company has had 1,000 reservations a week. He said that many of those coming to Israel were people who had not made firm reservations, for fear of instability in the region.

"They are people who were sitting on the fence and have decided to climb down and board a plane." Klieman said. Most of the passengers arriving this week were Christians, coming for Christmas, he said. For Hanukka, the company had a healthy traffic of

Jewish visitors, but nothing like the surge experienced this week. An average of 1,500 passengers are arriving a day, he said. In order to keep up with the demand, El Al has been operating four Boeing 747

flights a day from various cities in North America. He added that the company had added flights from London, Paris and Rome, to deal with the increase in passengers, but that this could not be compared to the increase from the US.

Meanwhile, the Tourism Ministry statistics for September still showed a major shump, with 15 percent fewer visitors from abroad than in September 1995. This included a drop of 5 percent from the United Kingdom and of 3 percent from the US, while France showed an increase of 5 percent.

ISDAEL MONEY MARKETS Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96) Clarrency (deposit for:) U.S. doller (\$250,000) Pound sterling (\$100,000) German mark (DM 200,000) Swiss franc (SF 200,000) Yen (10 million yen) 3 MONTHS 6 MONTHS 5,375 4,250 2,125

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicate Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (23.12.96)

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Tench frame	5.4245	5.5120	2.05	2.18	2.1054
JEDENBER VAN MARIEUEL	0.6180	D.822n	5.33	5.59	5.4792
	2.8401	2.88sn	0.60	0.64	0.6239
Swise fram	1.8603	1.89∩4	2.79	2.93	2,8645
Swedish krone	24212	2.46 38	1.82	1,92	1.8760
Norwegian krone	0.4739 0.5020	0.481a	2.38 0.48	2.50	2.4445
VERMI EMPA	0.3020	0.5164	0.49	0.49	0.4782
Finnish mark	0.5454 0.6993	0.5540	0.53	0.52	0.5060
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Australian dollar	2.5823	2.407e	2.32	0.73	0.7048
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	2.9683	1.0295	0.99	0.71	0.6969
	2.1218	3.0149	2.91	1.05	1.0216
Jordanian dinar	4.5100	2.1561	2.08	1 3.06	2.9917

The said units will, subject as provided in paragraphs 4 and 5 of Chapter A of the Prospectus, be sold on those days when trading takes place in Israel and abroad as defined in paragraph 1(a) of Chapter A of the Prospectus.

Payment for the units shall be made only in dollars out of a non-resident foreign currency deposit account of a foreign resident.

New Fund
The Fund is new and its units are being offered for the first time to the public.

The Fund's Investment Policy and Transactions for the Fund (see Chapter D of the Prospectus)

1. The Fund Agreement provides that:

(a) Subject to the provisions of any law, the Fund Manager may invest the Fund's resources in his exclusive discretion and is empowered also to fix the cash amount to be comprised in the Fund assets, from time to time. (b) The provisions of sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph may be varied by amendment of the Fund Agreement without requiring the sanction of a meeting of the unit holders.

NOTICE OF THE PUBLICATION OF A PROSPECTUS

(a) Offer at a Reduced Price

Until 14.00 on 31.12.96, the units are being offered at a price equal to their nominal value without the addition of any increment, namely at 100% of their nominal value (see, however, paragraph 6 of Chapter A of the Prospectus). Commencing 14.00 on 31.12.96

through 14.00 on 30.1.97, the units will be offered at the unit price, as determined from time to time, without the addition of any

Commencing 14.00 on 30.1.97 and through 30.09.97, the units will be offered at the unit price, as determined from time to time,

An unlimited number of registered units of a nominal value of one U.S. dollar (hereinafter - "dollar") are offered as follows:

2. Pursuant to the provisions of the law, the Fund Manager may purchase for the Fund, foreign securities and options traded abroad (in this Prospectus called: "foreign options") at a rate not exceeding 75% of the net value of the Fund assets, provided the investment in options does not exceed the rate mentioned in paragraph 3 below (see also paragraph 3(a) of Chapter D of the Prospectus).

3. Pursuant to the provisions of the law, the value of the options held by the Fund, with the exception of Maof Portfolio options (Call 1 options), will not exceed 10% of the net value of the Fund assets, and the value thereof, together with the value of option warrants held in the Fund, will not exceed 20% of the net value of the Fund assets (see also paragraphs 3(a) and 3(b) of Chapter D of the

Details of the nature of, the risks attached to, Options and investing therein, and the writing thereof, are set out in paragraph 1(c) of Chapter D of the Prospectus.

4. The Fund Manager may carry out the following transactions, subject to the provisions of the Law. (a) Purchase, sale and writing of options and futures contracts. (b) Effecting a sale short. (c) Lending or signing a lending agreement of securities, for the purpose of a sale transaction effected short provided this is not for

Transactions and Commitments for the Fund
The Fund Agreement provides that the Trust Manager may, without the sanction of a meeting of unit holders, effect any transaction which are not and undertake any commitment for the Fund (apart from increasing the Fund Manager's and Trustee's remuneration) which are not prohibited be the Fund Agreement provided that such act may be effected and commitment undertaken by law, as the case may be, without the approval of such a meeting.

Permit of the Controller of Foreign Currency for operating the Fund
The Permit of the Foreign Currency Controller, which contains various conditions for operating the Fund, appears in Appendix F to this Prospectus. The Permit will expire on 30 September 1997.

The Fund is an "unrestricted fund". Details of the tax provisions applicable to an unrestricted fund are set out in section 6 of Chapter K of the Prospectus, under the heading "Taxation".

Annual Fees of Fund Manager and Trustee (see Chapter H of this Prospectus)

Under the Fund Agreement, the Fund Manager is entitled to receive an annual fee equivalent to 5% of the average annual value of the Fund's assets as calculated for the purpose of fixing the unit price but, unless otherwise decided by the Fund Manager, it will receive an annual fee equal to 1.5% of the aforementioned value. The Trustee is entitled, under the Fund Agreement, to receive, and will receive, an annual fee equal to 0.2% of the abovementioned

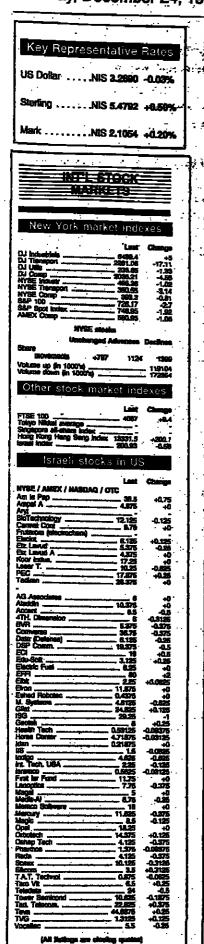
Expressions used in the Prospectus Expressions used in the Law and in the Regulations made thereunder, will bear the same meanings when used in this Prospectus, save where the context otherwise requires.

The Hebrew version of the Fund Agreement, and of the Prospectus are the exclusively binding text. The translator of the Prospectus has certified that the English translation of the Prospectus is a faithful translation of the Hebrew original (the certificate appears in

Copies of the Prospectus may be obtained from any branch of Bank Leumi le-Israel B.M. and from other members of the TASE. Date of the Prospectus: 14 Teveth, 5757 24 December, 1996

Fund Manager: Psagot Managers of Mutual Funds, Leumi Igud Ltd. The Trustee: Kesselman & Kesselman Trust Co. (1971) Ltd.

*In this Prospectus: "Foreign Resident" is as defined in the Currency Control Law 5738-1978, and in the Currency Control Permit 5738-



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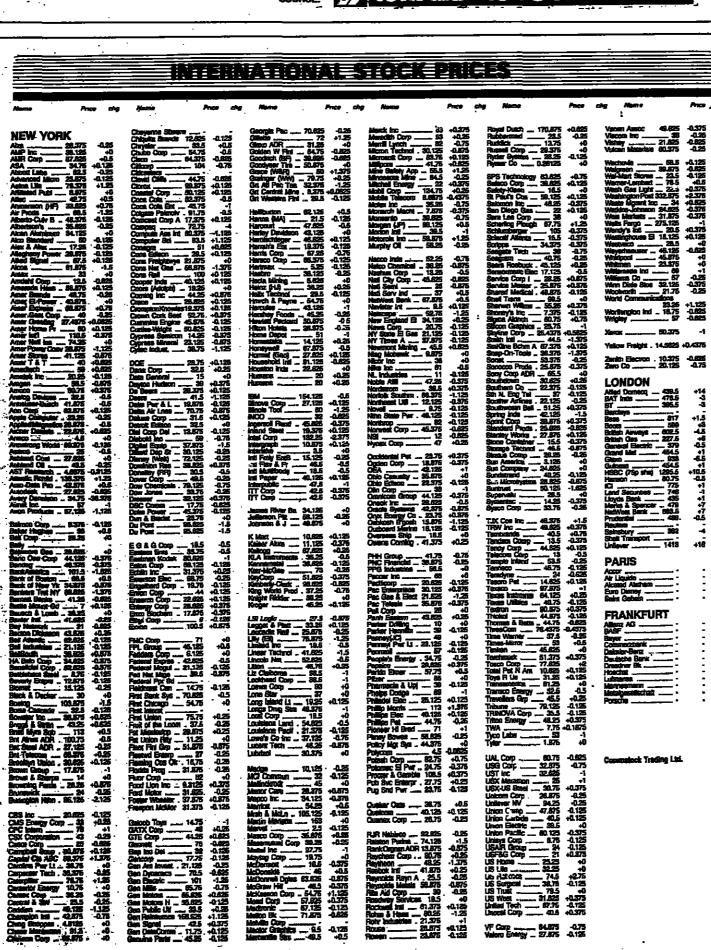
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Dollar crossrates (US)



Shares gain ahead of ratecut decision

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

DAN GERSTENFELD

218.59 +0.65%

Two-Sided index

SHARES closed higher yesterday as investors waited for the Bank of Israel's announcement on interest rates, traders said.
At the end of the trading day, the

Bank of Israel said it was lowering its key lending rates for January by 0.5 percentage point to an annualized 14.7 percent.

The benchmark Two-sided index rose 0.83%, or 1.72 points, to 210.09 on all-share turnover of NIS 98 million against NIS 80 million Sunday.

The Maof 25 blue-chip index gained 0.65% to 218.59. "The session opened with nice gains and the market rose by more

than 1%. Towards the end of trading day, we saw some profit-tak-ing," said a trader at the First International Bank of Israel.

The market is rising very fast and in the next few days we must **Maof index**

see a correction," said another trader. "But all the technical indicators are showing that the positive trend will continue after investors take profits."

"Everything looks good. The central bank was expected to lower the interest rate, the budget will be approved and it seems now that a deal over Hebron will be reached very soon," he added.

The market had expected a rate cut today of 0.3 to 0.5 point. Clal Israel, the main gainer on the Maof, rose 3.5%, but traders

said there was no evident reason for the rise.

The most active shares were Koor Industries, which lost 0.75% on volume of NIS 4.6m.; Bank Leumi, which rose 1% on volume of NIS 4m.; and Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, which gained 0.75% on turnover of NIS 3.6m. (Reuter)

Eurobourses mixed in weak Christmas trade

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuter) - European bourses put on a mixed performance vesterday but trading was thin ahead of the Christmas break and some investors took profits after recent strong gains.

On currency markets, the dollar was barely changed from levels seen late on Friday and business was quiet with most dealing rooms winding down for the holiday.

London, Europe's biggest stock exchange, recovered its early losses to show a small profit but overall dealings were light and traders said they expected volume to taper off even further as the day pro-

London's listless performance contrasted sharply with its record close on Friday when most European bourses were swept higher in a Christmas buying spree opted to lock in profits yesterday. The stock exchange's blue-chip

on Friday, eclipsing the record set on October 2i. At one point the FTSE was as high as 4,100.

European bourses drew little comfort from an unsettled opening by Wall Street yesterday. New York quickly clawed back early losses to show small gains by midafternoon in Europe.

Frankfurt's DAX index, which had surged 1.66 percent on Friday, closed down 0.3% after slow business with many traders having already left for the Christmas bolidays. The 30-share DAX index closed down 8.88 points at 2,845.57. In Paris, shares slipped in and out of profit but registered a gain of 0.3% by early afternoon.

The CAC-40 share index was up

4.85 at 2,283.38.

Moulinex was down 3.69% at 117.50 at one point. The company first half loss and announced plans for a 500 million franc (NIS 300

FTSE closed at a peak of 4,077.6 million) capital increase. Dow posts slim gain **WALL STREET REPORT**

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks were 6.58 percent, down from late mostly lower yesterday amid Friday's 6.60%. some profit-taking on last week's advance, particularly among technology shares, but the Dow Jones industrial average recovered late

in the session to post a slim gain. The Dow gained 4.62 points to close at 6,489.02, rebounding in the last half hour from a 34-point dip after surrendering a 24-point morning advance.

Broad-market indexes pulled back modestly, with the Nasdaq market showing the worst damage as technology shares gave up some ground for the second consecutive session.

from the bond market, where prices improved and the yield on the 30-year Treasury bond – a key determinant of corporate and consumer borrowing costs - fell to

Consumer spending was up 0.5% in November. While that was down from a 0.7% gain in October, it was still slightly better than the 0.4% rise many analysts had been expecting.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by nearly a 5-to-4 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,129 up, 1,397 down and 803 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 339.94

million shares vs. 650.09 million in the previous session. The Standard and Poor's 500stock index fell 1.94 to 746.93,

Stocks drew some early support and the NYSE's composite index fell 0.82 to 393,29. The Nasdaq composite index fell 9.08 to 1,279.48, and the

American Stock Exchange's market value index fell 1.03 to 580.98.

SUMMIT

(Continued from Page 1) concession was made, but the speculation is that it is linked to a timetable on the first of three IDF pullbacks.

There was talk last night of a US letter accompanying the agreement on this issue. In an apparent a sign of symmetry, just as Arafat met with Israeli negotiators, Netanyahn met with Palestinian negotiators in Jerusalem yesterday afternoon.

As it stands now, in terms of the

particulars of the deal, there will be a restricted weapons zone around the Jewish enclave in Hebron known by some as a "buffer zone," and Palestinian checkpoints will be set up alongside this area. Inside the area, Palestinian policemen will either carry pistols or short-range Ingram submachine guns. These weaponry restrictions

will also be in place on the Abu Spena hillside and in joint patrols by the two sides. Israel wanted to ensure that Palestinians would not have rifles within sniping range of settlers.

The main Shuhada Road in downtown Hebron, which the Israelis have closed to Arab traffic, will open gradually within

weeks. Details for reopening the Arab

wholesale market in the Jewish quarter remain to be settled. Last night, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators Jerusalem discussed where the checkpoints on the Shuhada road will be established. "There is work going on," Ross said. "There is still a lot of work to be done. I think there are still issues to be resolved. I think you should focus on the fact that there is more work to be done," Ross said when asked if an agreement on Hebron was

Regarding other particulars, there will be no joint patrol near the Machpela Cave, and construction inside the Jewish area will not be subject to approval by the Palestinians, while construction of tall Arab buildings around the Jewish compound will be restrict-

"There will be no change in the wording of the agreement," said top Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.

Both sides feel they are working under pressure from the US to complete the talks. Since the US criticized Israeli settlement activity last week, the US has felt freer to be tougher in publicly urging the Palestinians to reciprocate to Israeli concessions, Israeli officials say.

Hull nets 500th goal

ST. LOUIS - Brett Hull scored his 26th career hat trick and became the 24th player in NHL history to score 500 goals, as the St. Louis Blues beat the Los Angeles Kings 7-4 on Sunday.

After scoring in each of the first two periods, Hull was credited with his 500th career goal 20 seconds into the third. His slap shot from the edge of the slot hit teammate Stephane Matteau and bounced past goaltender Stephane

Replays clearly showed the puck hit Matteau. Hull's goal stood for about five minutes until he huddled with off-ice officials and Matteau was credited with the

"I was telling Matty (Matteau) I can't take that, it's your goal," Hull said. "Let's go get anoth-

But midway through the period, Hull rifled a slap shot from the right faceoff circle through Fiset's

pads for the milestone goal.
"I had been thinking about it all year," Hull said. "To be be put among those players who have done it and to have done it here at home ... is really something."

Rangers 7, Panthers 3 Rangers captain Mark Messier reached a pair of career milestones in leading his team to victory over the division rival Florida Panthers. Messier scored a pair of goals

and assisted on two others to become only the fifth player in NHL history to register 1,500 career points and pass John Bucyk for 12th place on the NHL's alltime goal scoring list.

Alexei Kovalev and Niklas Sundstrom added two goals each, and Brian Leetch registered four assists. The rout against what was the league-leading defense going into the game chased goaltender John Vanbiesbrouck from the net

Ray Sheppard had a hat trick for the visiting Panthers.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS: N.Y. Rangers 7, Florida 3 St. Louis 7, Los Angeles 4 Detroit 6, Edmonton 2 Philadelphia 2, Chicago 2

Flyers 2, Blackhawks 2
The Philadelphia Flyers' fourgame shutout and seven-game winning streaks ended but they still rallied to tie the host Chicago Blackhawks when Eric Lindros scored twice in a 48-second span of the second period.

Garth Snow made 30 saves for the Flyers, 9-0-2 since last losing November 27. Snow, who was in net for two of the four shutouts, was beaten by Sergei Krivokrasov 2:38 into the game - the first goal Philadelphia allowed in 265 minutes, 8 seconds.

Tony Amonte also scored and Ed Belfour stopped 25 shots for the Blackhawks, who played much harder and better than they had in recent weeks but couldn't protect a 2-0 first-period lead.

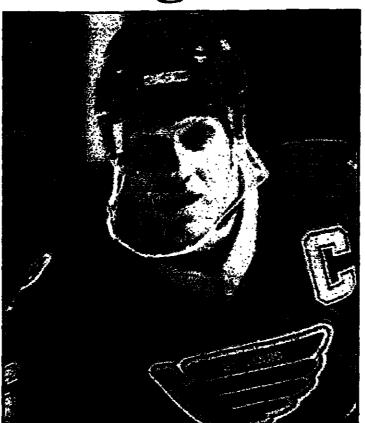
Red Wings 6, Oilers 2 Brendan Shanahan, Vyacheslav Kozlov and Jamie Pushor scored consecutive goals in the second period as the Detroit Red Wings extended the Oilers' winless streak

Edmonton led 2-1 after 20 minutes and Shanahan tied it with a blast from just inside the blue line at 2:23 of the second while the Red Wings were on a power play. Detroit, which had gone winless in three games (0-2-1), moved ahead for good at 9:46 when Kozlov's shot deflected off the stick of Oilers defenseman Boris Mironov and past Curtis Joseph.

Flames 7, Coyotes 2 German Titov sparked a threegoal first period with a pair of power-play goals and recorded his second career hat trick as the visiting Calgary Flames snapped their three-game winless streak.

Todd Hlushko, Jarome Iginla,

CONFERENCE Central Division							
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Dallas	21	10	ż	45	99	78	
Detroit	18	11	6	42	104	68	
St. Louis	16	19	1	33	101	120	
Phoenix	14	16	4	32	89	107	
Chicago	14	18	4	32	88	92	
Toronto	14	21	0	28	104	123	
Pacific Division							
Colorado	19	10	5	43	119	82	
Vancouver	16	15	1	33	100	98	
Edmonton	14	18	4	32	114	114	
Calgary	13	18	5	31	90	102	
Anaheim	12	16	5	29	97	105	
Los Angeles	12	19	4	28	93	120	
San Jose	11	18	4	26	81	109	



SCORING MACHINE - Brett Hull became the 24th NHLer to ioin the 500 club.

Theoren Fleury and Ron Stern also scored for the Flames, who posted their first victory over Phoenix since March 17, 1995 when the team was in Winnipeg. The Coyotes, who until this season played as the Winnipeg Jets, had won six consecutive games

against Calgary.								
EASTERN CONFERENCE								
At	lent	ic D	V is	ion				
	W	Ł	Т	Pts	G₽	GΑ		
Philadelphia	21	12	3	45	110	86		
Florida	19	В		45	104	80		
N.Y. Rangers	18	14	5	41	131	100		
New Jersey	19	11	Ž	40	89	77		
Washington	14	18	2	30	91	95		
N.Y. Islanders	11	14	8	30	87	92		
Tampa Bay	11	18	3	25	91	103		
Northeast Division								
Buffalo	18	14	2		103	95		
			-					
Hantord	16	11	6	38	104	106		
Pittsburgh	16	15	3	35	119	112		
Boston	13	15	5	31	94	114		
Montreal	12	17	5	29	111	119		
Ottawa	Я	15	7	25	81	97		

Keith Tkachuk and Darrin Shannon scored for the Coyotes. (Retter, AP)

SCORING LEADERS

MUL SCORING FEADERS						
Gretzky, NYR Jagr, Pit Lemleux, Pit Sundin, Tor Sakto, Col Selane, Ana Forsbarg, Col	69 37 34 33 35 34 33 31	G 14 30 21 22 14 18 12	A 38 20 29 26 32 26 31	PTS PIN 52 8 50 32 50 24 48 20 48 18 44 14 43 20		
Yzerman, Det Shanahan, HFD Koivu, Mon Francis, Pit Leelch, NYR Palify, NYI	35 34 30 34 37 32	11 19 13 11 9 20	30 21 25 27 29 17	41 28 4 58 38 20 38 4 38 20 37 31		
Senderson, Har Leclair, Phi Recchi, Mon Amonte, Chi Messier, NYR Tachuk, Pho Nedved, Pit Fleury, Cal Sevage, Mon	33 36 34 36 31 34 33 36 33	21 20 15 22 18 19 16 13	15 16 21 13 17 14 17 17	6 15 36 28 36 3 35 28 35 29 33 77 33 26 33 27		

Reeves fired as Giants coach

Skippers of Rams and Falcons also gone

yesterday as coach of the New York Giants football

"I just think that we were not going in the right direc-

tion," general manager George Young said.

Reeves compiled a 31-33 record in four seasons, missing the playoffs the past three years and posting losing record the last two. New York (6-10) capped a very inconsistent season Saturday, blowing a 22-0 halftime lead in a 23-22 loss to former Giants coach Bill Parcells and the New England Patriots.

That didn't seal Reeves' fate. Just last Monday, the 52-year-old coach said he expected to be fired once the season ended.

Asked when he made up his mind on Reeves, Young said it was not a sudden decision. "It evolved over the second half of the season,"

Young said. "I'm not apologizing for anything. We made a decision. We wanted to go in a different direction. We felt

we wanted to change leadership."

Reeves, who still had one year to go on a five-year contract, met with Young earlier in the day, according to a source close to the team.

"He said he talked to George and that they couldn't work it out," said the source, who spoke on condition that he not be identified.

Reeves then met with his coaching staff and told them a change was going to be made.

The Giants' failures on the field were not the main reason Reeves won't be back. He battled with Young and Tom Boisture, the team's director of player personnel, for more input into player decisions.

It nearly led to his firing last year, but Reeves

EAST RUTHERFORD (AP) - Dan Reeves was fired returned after being told by Giants owners that things

were not going to change.
Reeves came to the Giants in 1993, taking over a team that was bitterly divided after missing the playoffs in its only two seasons under Ray Handley.

Handley got the job after Parcells resigned shortly after a Super Bowl win over Buffalo in January, 1991. Reeves, whose contract with Denver had not been renewed after 12 seasons and three Super Bowl appearances, was Young's third choice for the job, only etting it after Tom Coughlin decided to stay at Boston

College and Dave Wannstedt took the Bears job. Reeves quickly restored order on the Giants, naming Phil Simms as his quarterback and waiving disgruntled linebacker Pepper Johnson. New York responded with an 11-5 record and came within a field goal of winning

The Giants were crushed by San Francisco in the second round of the playoffs and Simms and Lawrence

Taylor both retired after the season. New York nearly made the playoffs in 1994 with a season-ending seven-game winning streak, but lost out on a tiebreaker. The past two seasons have been typified by slow starts and New York never came close to the playoffs as the offense struggled under Dave Brown. The pressure to succeed put a strain on Brown's relationship with Reeves and the two have been at odds the

past two years. Reeves is one of four NFL coaching casualties in recent days. The New York Jets sent Rich Kotite packing following a woeful 1-15 season, the Rams (6-10)

fired coach Rich Brooks on Sunday after just two seasons in St. Louis, and the Atlanta Falcons fired June

22nd annual winter soccer youth tournament starts Friday

THE 22nd annual winter youth and junior soccer tournament will be held throughout the country from Friday until next Thursday,

day at a press conference. A total of 10 teams from nine countries will take part. Israel, Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium, Slovakia and Turkey will contest the junior (under-16) section and Israel, Greece, Cyprus and Hungary will take part in the **JOEL GORDIN**

youth (under 17 section). The games will be held at nine

grounds throughout the country. Outlining the history of the annual tournament, Israel Football Association managing director Ya'acov Erel stated that it had been started at a time when Israel was isolated from European sports for political reasons. The tournament's success was one of the big

factors in getting Israeli soccer back into Europe. Erel said he was confident that, as a result of the tournament, Israel would be chosen to hold the European Youth

Championships in the year 2000. This year, budgetary considerations had forced the youth section to be cut from five to four countries. Also as a result of money problems, no foreign referees will take part this year. Entrance to the games is free.

Maccabi Tel Aviv wins tennis youth tourney

TENNIS: Maccabi Tel Aviv won the final of the Champion of Champions youth (ages 12-14) tennis league at Hadar Yosef on Saturday. Six teams, the champions of their areas throughout the country, played in the tournament with the Tel Avivians beating Ironi Ramle 5-1.

Playing for Tel Aviv were Dudi Sela. Amit Inbar, Yiftach Bar Lavav and Danielle Steinberg.

Hapoel Mate Asher and Maccabi Arad slotted into third and fourth places respec-

SWIMMING: The national swimming heroes were all in attendance at a competition at Kirvat Bialik over the weekend but the records fell to the juniors.

Lital Kashriel broke the 100 meters backstroke in the 17-years category, clocking 1:04.47. Adi Bichman set a new record in the 13-14 age group in the 800m freestyle with 9:11.32 while also winning the 200m individual medley (2:27.34) the 100m freestyle (1:14.89) and the 200m freestyle (2:40.96).

Visiting home from Auburn University where he is studying was Eytan Orbach who won the 200m backstroke in 2:00.15. Jerusalem third.

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DWELLINGS

General

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HEATHER CHAIT

Mickey Halika, Dan Kutler and Yoav Bruck were some of the other winners.

GOLF: Caesarea's greens, well-nourished after last week's storms which canceled last weekend's golf for many, were back in action this past weekend. One hundred players entered the monthly medal competition, divided into four divisions.

Max Shapiro won Division A with a two under par 71, with Ran Sandler on 72 and Sami Haliyo on 73. Division B was won by Maurice Alhadef on 69 with Boaz Baltaxa and Rahamim Sofer tying on 70. Baruch Baltaxa scored 67 to win the C division with Uri Shani on 68 and Jules Cuburnek making 69.

The best scores came in the D division where Harold Stutzen notched 65, 84-yearold Lou Zinn showed his mettle with 68 and Avery Drenger scored 69.

Kfar Shmaryahu won the National Coca

Cola League for the fourth consecutive year leaving Tel Aviv in second place and

CLASSIFIEDS

SQUASH: Fit at fifty (and over) are the RUGBY: While the rugby season is well entrants for the Passport Scotch Israel 1996 Open Squash Championships. The competition has three age groups, over 50, over 55 and over 60 and the final rounds will be played from

Thursday to Saturday. The players are both sabras and Anglo-Saxons with the oldest player a healthy 71years-old. To watch the competition or to play in the weekly Friday game at the Ra'anana Squash Center, call 09-7448115.

ORIENTEERING: The orienteering competition to be held from Thursday to Saturday will mark two firsts for the sport. Visitors from Germany, Hungary, Austria, Britain, Sweden, Norway and Finland will make it the biggest international competition ever to be held here while holding a three-day meet will also be a breakthrough

The routes will cover Neot Kedumim on Thursday, Park Canada on Friday and Mesua Forest on Saturday. The two best

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under way, a squad of 10 players and two officials are readying themselves for the preliminaries of the World Cup Seven (seven-a-side) tournament to be played in Uruguay next month.

At home, Tel Aviv is leading the league and this week takes on Kibbutz Yezre'el at the Sportek in a Cup game. Other games at the Sportek on Saturday are Ra'anana against Galil Elyon and Netanya against Rishon Lezion. Playing at Givat Ram in Jerusalem will be Jerusalem against the Eagles in the A league.

PRESIDENTIAL TREATMENT: If you're eight-years-old and you like soccer, it helps if your grandmother is Reuma Weizman. For Avner, grandson to the Presidential couple, a dream came true this week when he attended a practice session of his idols, Betar Jerusalem. Not only did the overawed youngster

meet his heroes, Eli Ohana, Rounen Harazi and Itzik Zohar, but he was even given a soccer ball with their names signed on it.

Arsenal

protests

Wright

dismissal

LONDON (Reuter) - English

Premier division side Arsenal sub-

mitted an official complaint to the

Football Association yesterday

about Ian Wright's sending-off at

Referee Stephen Lodge dis-

missed Wright for violent conduct,

an offense which carries an auto-

matic three-match ban, after the

Arsenal striker clashed with Forest

The FA said Lodge and assistant

referee John Holbrook would be

sent a videotape of the incident

Lodge said he had not seen the

incident but had relied on the evi-

dence of Holbrook before showing

and asked for their observations.

defender Nikola Jerkan

Wright the red card.

Nottingham Forest on Saturday.

Euro 96 star Sammer wins 'footballer of year' award

Barcelona's Ronaldo places second

PARIS (Reuter) - Matthias in the European championship Sammer, the best player in the final at Wembley in June. European championship won by his team Germany, won the Golden Ball as 1996 European footballer of the year yesterday.

The Borussia Dortmund libero, who has also helped his club to win the German Bundesliga for the last two seasons, was presented with the prestigious trophy in a small ceremony on French television organized by the magazine France Football.

"I want to include Borussia Dortmund and the German team in this award because it was thanks to their efficacity that I was able to express myself to my best," Sammer said.

In the annual poll by European soccer writers, Sammer won the award by exactly the same number of points as AC Milan striker George Weah, 10th this time, did in 1995.

His victory was close, just three points separating him from Barcelona's Brazilian wonder Ronaldo, while England striker Alan Shearer of Newcastle United was third with 109 points.

Ronaldo was actually first on more ballots than Sammer - 16 to 13 - and featured on more ballots altogether - 39 to Sammer's 35. But Sammer had more votes in the top three. "I naturally had a small hope

that I might win (the award) but I didn't really expect it. I just wanted to be in the top five," said Sammer, who was German footballer of the year for the second time in 1995.

Sammer, born in the former East Germany in 1967, was the most influential player in the German side that beat the Czech Republic

He scored the Germans' winning goal in their quarter-final against

Croatia and helped them to win a nail-biting semifinal against host England in a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw. Sammer said he hoped his Golden Ball achievement would

encourage other soccer players from the former East Germany. There have been footballers of great quality from there but we

were not allowed to develop fully," he said.

There were two Germans in the top 10, with the Euro 96 winners' captain Juergen Klinsmann, who was second last year, finishing fifth

this time, and three Frenchmen. Manchester United's Eric Cantona, who has been overlooked by his national team boss Aime Jacquet in the last two seasons, was higher in seventh place than two France regulars Marcel Desailly of AC Milan and Youri Djorkaeff of their neighbors Internazionale.

Juventus's brilliant playmaker Alessandro Del Piero was fourth and Davor Suker, Real Madrid's Croatian striker, sixth.

Voting results of the 1997 Golden Ball award: Matthias Sammer, Borussia Dortmund, 144 points.
 Finneldo, FO Barcelona, 141.
 Alan Shearer, Newcastle United Alessandro Del Piero, Juvento 5. Juergen Klinsmariri, Bayer Municip, 80. Davor Suker, Real Madrid, 38. Eric Cantona, Manchester U 8. Marcel Desality, AC Milan, 22 9. Youri Djorkgelf, Inter Milan, 20 18. George, Weah, AC Milan, 17.

Triumph and tragedy at Atlanta 96

jump medal in the 1996 Olympics, the clear star of the Games was Michael Johnson, who completed an unprecedented double in the 200 and 400, including a

Bailey's, Johnson's and Nigeria's glory at the Olympics was a pipe bomb explosion in the early morning of July 27 in Centennial Olympic Park.

The explosion, which occurred midway through the Games, killed one, and took much of the spirit of the

world record 19.32 seconds in the shorter sprint.

buying, seeing, leasing, irading Tel. 02-6523735, 050-240977. NEW YORK (AP) - It was clearly ... a passing of not only the title, but admirers and praise for African SELLING?BUYING?"INSTANTCASH" While Carl Lewis won his fourth Olympic long Any car, Huge inventory, Bargains, Bennett, Tel. 02-993-1493, 050-318715.

The titles gave Johnson a share of the claim to world's fastest human, the other part going to Canada's Donovan Bailey, who lowered the 100meter record to 9.84 in winning the Olympic title.

But casting a dark shadow over all of Lewis's,

The Games already were drawing and the

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HELEN KAYE

SHAKESPEARE in Beirut? You bet! Cameri artistic director Omri Nitzan has directed a suavely acted, very sophisticated, very witty and very impudent Comedy of Errors which extols the benefits of piece without ever sermonizing. Dan Almagor's translation brings the jokes into the '90s while Ohad Shahar, Natan Datner, Ya'acov Cohen and Rami Baruch keep them aloft. Unmissable. Tonight on the Cameri mainstage at 8:30. (Hebrewwith simultaneous translation into English)

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

THE Liturgica festival of sacred music, an old Jerusalem tradition, opens tonight with a fes-tive concert by the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, the orchestra which initiated this event many years ago. Music director David Shallon is on the podium to lead his orchestra in three liturgic works. First comes Kodaly's Psalmus Hungaricus with tenor Tamas Daroczi. It is followed by Mendelssohn's Psalm 42 and the program concludes with Leonard Bernstein's immortal Third Symphony, Kaddish, featuring Topol as the narrator and American soprano Kelley Nassief as soloist. Nassief is the laureate of the recent Jerusalem International Leonard Bernstein Competition for Artistic Song. The Royal Scottish National Orchestra Choir is on stage as well. At the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem (8).

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

THE celebrated French Romantic writer Voltaire was born 300 years ago. The Discovery Channel celebrates with a four-part series, filmed as a documentary set in flamboyant 17th-century Europe following Voltaire's dramatic life and fight to spread his ideas. Actors playing Voltaire's con-temporaries are interspersed with interviews of critics and scholars who help to shed light on this fascinating figure. Episode 1 will be shown tonight at 10 and tomorrow at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

FILM

Adina Hoffman

*** LAST MAN STANDING - A Insciously photographed reworking of Akira Kurosawa's, 1961 samurai classic, Yojimbo, Walter Hill's



American soprano Kelley Nassief perfoms in the opening of the Jerusalem Liturgica festival of sacred music, tonight.

Prohibition-era gangster film is the story of a mysterious drifter (Bruce Willis) who wanders into a small Texas town, bitterly divided between a pair of warring bootlegging outfits. Instead of taking sides, this trigger-happy cynic decides to play the two against each other - and work for both at the same time. Last Man is tonally uneven (and extremely violent) but it's enjoyable nonetheless, a movie whose flaws are audacious enough to keep us interested throughout. With Christopher Walken and Bruce Dern. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult.)

*** SPITFIRE GRILL - The tear-jerking tale of a young woman's attempts to start life afresh in a small Maine town after her release from jail, Spitfire isn't subtle, but it is effective in a cloying, predictable way. This is the kind of movie that one fights to resists—resenting writer/director Lee David Zlotoff for his shameless reliance on a host of overliteral symbols, gritting one's teeth at the uplifting soundtrack, and ruing every minute of Ellen Burstyn's generic curmudgeon-with-aheart-of-gold performance as the older widow who reluctantly takes in and learns to trust the former prisoner. At a certain point, though, it seems best to either give in to the film's folksy charms or walk out in the middle. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.)

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 1

6:31 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Moses in Jewish Tradition 6:30 Family Ties 9:00 Reading 9:30 Health 9:45 Programs for the young 10:15 French 10:30 Mathematics 10:40 Literature 11:15 Science 11:30 Science and Technology 12:00 Geography 12:30 Everything's Open 13:00 The Onedin Line 14:00 Surprise Train 14:20 Kitty Cet and Tommy 14:35 Babar the Elephant 15:00 Zombit

E CHANNEL 1

15:30 Tinytown Tales 15:50 Booly 16:00 The Mysterious Island 16:25 What's the Noise? – classical music 16:45 Super Ben 16:55 Zap to Besel 16:59 A New Evening 17:34 Shakeup – live show 18:15 News in English ARABIC PROGRAMS

Another Programs
18:30 Apropo 19:00 News in Arabic
HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 News flash 19:31 Aliens in the
Family 20:00 News 20:50 Lotto results
live 20:55 Mine Host Meni Pe'er 22:00 High-Tech Hate - Canadian documentary about advanced communications tary acoust advanced communications technology used by racist groups 23:00 There's Room for Everyone – documentary about the beliefs of different religious groups relating to Elijah's Cave on Mt. Carmel 23:30 News 23:55 Midnight Mass – broadcast from the Church of the Acumelation in Negrepties Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth

■ CHANNEL 2

13:00 Doogie Howser, MD 13:30 Blossom 14:00 Echo Point 14:30 Junior News – news magazine for youth 15:00 Aladdin – adventure series 16:00 Bold and Beautiful 17:00 News magazine with Rafi Reshef 17:30 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air 18:00 My So-Called Life 19:00 Hartzufim 19:20 The Price is Right 20:00 News 20:30 Ramat Aviv Gimel – new season 21:15 Fact with Ilana Dayan 22:00 Gov Night 23:15 X-Files 00:00 News 00:05 X-Files 00:10 News 00:05 X-File Night Encounters with Kobi Medan 1:00 Ngir encourners with Kool Madean 1:00 Christmas Concert - Schubert's Mass In G major, John Rutter's Requiem (Psalms 23 and 130) and Christmas carols 2:05 Kleptomania (1993) - a wealthy housewife and a streetwise wait have nothing in common except for the fact that they steal. With Amy Irving and Patsy Kensit. (84 mins.) 3:45 On the Edge of the Shelf

E JORDAN TY

14:05 Budgie, the Little Helicopter 14:20 Captain Planet 14:40 | Love Lucy 15:00 French programs 16:00 At the

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ACROSS

ROZ4Z6

1 They may be seen racing o'er spire (7,7) 9 Dad, after commercial,

in study, expressionless (7) seen 10 Struggle with job following hostility (4-3)

11 They are engaged in making machines work (4)

12 It helps the dough spread farther (7,3) 14 Hate having to change a

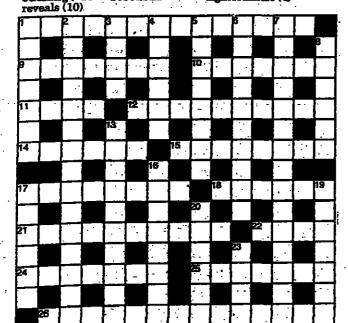
hotel (6) 15 Removed gear with no thread left (8)

17 Abandon royal dignity (8) 18 It rouses after the manner

of strong spirit (6) 21 Good ones get a lot of backing—so research

DOWN 1 I'd colic, ruptured appendix? (7)

2 It may enable fighters to make a comeback (4,5,6) 3 Native warriors each speak of their righteousness (4)



ACROSS 1 Negligent (8) 7 Wading bird (5) 8 Remember (9)

9 Every (3) 10 Responsibility (4) 11 Helix (6) 13 Summary (6) 14 Worldwide (6)

17 Epistle (6) 18 Factual (4) 20 Untruth (3) 22 Erudition (9) 23 Silly (5) 24 Send (8)

Boused, 25 Rudely.

DOWN: 1 Styled, 2 Hang, 3 Deeply,
4 Author, 5 Fang, 6 Tenuis, 7
Unmatched, 8 Gazetteer, 11 Floor,
12 Devon, 15 Vapour, 16 Rotted, 17
Farmer, 18 Ratify, 21 Miss, 22 Fend.

QUICK CROSSWORD DOWN

1 Freight (5) 2 Hermit (7) 3 Quiet (4) 4 Drowsy (6) 5 Whole (5) 6 Proficient (7)

> 12 Error (7) 13 Steal (7) 15 Emmi (7) 16 Diversion (6) 17 Lawful (5)

> > 19 Upright (5)

21 Plot (4)

7 Geom-free (7)

022-9110 The National Poison Control Center at Rembern Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning. Eran — Emotional First Aid. 1201, also: Jerusalem 561-0303, Tel Aviv 548-1111 (chi-

dren/youth 696-1113), Haifa 867-2222/3, Beersheba 649-4333, Netanya 862-5110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kiar Sava 767-4555,

E CHILDREN (6)

Zoo 16:30 Documentary 17:00 News flash 17:02 Fun with Physics 17:15 Cyclone Tracy 18:00 French programs 19:30 News headlines 19:35 Murphy Brown 20:00 Magazine 01 20:30 Christmas in Connecticut (1992) – remake of the 1945 comedy about a magazine writer who finds herself entertaining a war veteran for Christmas, together with her boss. With Kris Kristofferson and Tony Curtis. Directed by Arnold Schwarzenegger. (100 mins.) 22:00 News in English 22:25 Something Wilder 23:15 Mission Impossible 00:00 The Sound of Christmas – Julie Andrews and John Denver 1:00 Midnight Mass live from the Vatican the Vatican

MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 Quantum Shopping 8:00 TV Shop 14:30 700 Club 15:00 Larry King 16:00 Hunter 16:55 Family Challenge 17:45 Family Matters 18:10 Saved by the Bell 18:35 Day and Date 18:30 World News Tonight (Arabic) 20:00 American Football 23:00 CNN 23:30 The 700 Club 00:00 TV Shop 2:00 Quantum Shopping 3:00 TV Shop

CABLE

■ ITV 3 (33)

16:00 Cartoons 16:30 Yasin and Bahaya 17:15 From Day to Day 16:00 Amores 19:00 News in Arabic 19:30 Video Clips 20:00 News 20:45 Rumpole of the Bailey 21:40 Showcase 22:15 Cinema magazine 23:15 The Mayor of Casterbridge — miniseries based on Thomas Hardy's novel. Part 6

■ ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Wonder Years 16:00
Mathematics for Bagrut 17:00
Mathematics in Daily Life 17:35 Bush
Tucker 18:00 Family Album 18:30 Bilitz
on Carbons 19:00 Moses in Jewish
Tradition 19:30 Mirror 20:00 A New
Evening 20:30 Welcome to France
21:00 Star Trek: The Next Generation
21:45 Pop Songs 22:00 Movie Magic
22:30 Andrzej Wajda – documentary
about the Polish film director 23:30
Shakespearean Theater

III FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

8:00 Sisters (rpt) 9:00 One Life to Live (rpt) 9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt) 10:30 Days of Our Lives (rpt) 11:20 Peria Negra (rpt) 12:10 Neighbors (rpt) 12:35 Dallas (rpt) 13:30 Starting at 1:30 14:10 Rosie O'Neiil 15:00 Sisters 15:50 Days of Our Lives 16:40 Neighbors 17:10 Dallas 18:00 One Life to Live 18:45 The Young and the Restless 19:30 Local broadcast 20:00 Peria Negra 20:50 Beverly Hills 90210 21:40 Bye Bye Birdie (1995) — remake of the 1963 musical. With Vanessa Williams and Jason Alexander (125 mins.) 23:20 Night Stand with Dick Dietrick 23:45 Law and Order 00:30 Silk Stalkings 1:20 North of 60 8:00 Sisters (rpt) 9:00 One Life to Live

III MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Weekend at Bernie's (1989) (ppt)
13:05 New in the Cinema 13:20 Kennel
Murder Case (1993) (ppt) 14:35 The
Other Side of Love (1991) (ppt) 16:10
Shadowlands (1993) (ppt) 18:25 The
Lotus Eaters (1993) – nostalgic drama
about the winds of change in the life of
an eccentric school principal and his
tamily in Western Canada in the 1960s.
(100 mins.) 20:05 New in the Cinema
20:20 Marcellino Pana E Vino (Italian,
1991) – monks raise a baby they found
in a cabbage patch. When he grows up
he finds a statue of Jesus which comes
to life (92 mins.) 22:00 No Exit (1995) –
martial arts (89 mins.) 23:35 A Midnight
Clear (1992) – anti-war drama about a Clear (1992) - anti-war drama about a unit of American Gis on a mission in France during WMIL Based on the novel by William Wharton. With Kevin Dillon. (103 mins.) 1:20 Fallen Angels (1992) (rpt) 2:55 After Food of the Gods (1989) — Horror. Genetic experiment goes wrong and lab mice turn into vora-cious glants (86 mins.)

6:30 Cartoons 9:00 Coure Mario 9:30 6:30 Carbons 8:00 Coure Mario 9:30
The Center of Things 9:45 Pink Panther
Show 10:05 The Center of Things
10:20 Ocean Girl 11:05 Minor
Adjustmants 11:35 Little University
12:00 Shesh-Tus 12:30 Hugo 13:00
Surprise Garden 13:15 Popcomia
13:45 Tasmania 14:05 Jin Jin and the
Panda Patrol 14:30 Coure Mario 15:00
The Center of Things 15:15 Pink The Center of Things 15:15 Pink Panther Show 15:50 The Adventures of Pete and Pete 16:15 The Center of Peta and Peta 16:15 the Center of Things 16:35 Hangin' with Mr. Cooper 17:05 Little University 17:30 Shesh-Tus 18:00 Hugo 18:30 Looney Toons and Inspector Gadget 19:30 Three's Company 20:00 Rocko's Modern Life and Ren & Stimpy 20:25 Married with Children 20:50 Roseanne 21:15 Lois and Cleate.

E SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 The Mackintosh Man (1973) 22:00 The Mackintosh Man (1973) —
Cold War thriller by John Huston. British
intelligence hires an outsider to find
KGB moles in high positions. With Paul
Newman and Dominique Sanda. 23:40
Hamlet Goes Business (Finnish, 1987)
— Comlo-modern version of
Shakespeare's Hamlet. Written and
directed by Ald Kaurismaki (85 mins.)

6:00 Open University - Textile strike of 1934, part 3; Blessings of a Mummy; American Presidents: Ronald Reagan 12:00 Great Palaces - Schoenbrunn, Vienna (rpt) 12:30 Fork in the Road -Vienna (rpt) 12:30 Fork in the Road — San Francisco (rpt) 13:00 One Lump or Two? (rpt) 14:00 Open University (rpt) 16:00 Great Palaces (rpt) 16:30 Fork in the Road (rpt) 17:00 One Lump or Two? (rpt) 18:00 Open University (rpt) 20:00 Sight by Touch — Louis Braile who found a way to help millions of blind people 20:30 Paleoworld 21:00 National Geographic Explorer 22:00 National Geographic Explorer 22:00 Voltaire, 1694-1778 — four-part series on the great French romantic writer, honoring his 300th birthday, 23:00 Sight by Touch (rpt) 23:30 Paleoworld (rpt) 00:00 Open University (rpt)

SUPER CHANNEL

6:00 Selina Scott Show 7:00 The Ticket 7:30 NBC News 8:00 Today 10:00 Wall Street Morning Reports 11:00 European Money Wheel 15:30 Wall Street Morning Reports 17:00 MSNBC – The Site 18:00 National Geographic 19:00 Cooking magazine 19:30 The Ticket 20:00 Selina Scott Show 21:00 Dateline 22:00 NCAA basketball 23:00 Tonight Show with Jay Leno 00:00 Later with Greg Kinnear 1:30 NBC News with Tom Brokaw 2:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno 3:00 MSNBC Internight

6:00 Yan Can Cook 6:30 El TV 7:00 Kate and Alie 7:30 Oprah Wintrey 8:30 The X-Files 9:30 Santa Barbara 10:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 11:00 Khandaan 11:30 Imfinan 12:00 Home and Away 12:30 Lost in Space 13:30 Black Stallion 14:00 Kate and Alie 14:20 Wint Can Carlo 15:00 Chapamatel Black Stallion 14:00 Kate and Alie 14:30 Yan Can Cook 15:00 Cyberworld 15:30 Star News in Hindi 16:00 Small Wonder 16:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 Hindi program 17:30 Star News 18:00 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em 18:30 Special: Christmas Around the World 19:30 The Bold and the Description of the ETM control of the Policy ETM c Around the World 19:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 20:30 E!TV 21:00 Baywatch 22:00 Dynasty 23:00 Quincy 00:00 Oprah Winfrey 1:00 Barnaby Jones 2:00 Home and Away 2:30 The

■ CHANNEL 5

6:30 Bodies in Motion 16:00 Bodies in Motion 18:30 English Soccer – Newcastie vs. Liverpool (rpt) 18:30 National League Handball – Hapoel Rehovot vs. Hapoel Rishon – live 20:00 American Soccer 23:00 NFL

E EUROSPORT

9:30 Golf: 1996 in review 11:00 Speedworld 13:00 Sports Magazine

13:30 Olympic Games 14:00 Eurogoals 15:00 American Challenge Games 16:00 Triathlon: Iron Man, Hawaii (rpt) 17:00 Recreational Sports Magazine 18:00 Motor Racing — season review 19:00 Motor racing: Go Karting, France 21:00 Soccer: European Championship — roundup 23:00 Sports Magazine 00:00 Soccer: European Cups 1:00

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Boating Magazine 6:30 Tennis: Greatest Grand Slam Matches of 1996 8:30 Motor Racing: Go Karting race, France 9:30 Athletics 10:30 Cricket: France 9:30 Athletics 10:30 Cricket: Best of the Singer Cup 11:30 Asia Sport Show 12:00 Table Tennis: Pro Tour 14:00 Motorcycle Racing: Best of Superbike season 15:00 ITU Triatilion 16:00 Motorcycle Racing: Supercross, Japan 17:00 Gott: World review 18:30 ITU Triatilion, World Cup 19:30 India Soccer Show 21:30 Thai Kickboxing 22:30 Trans World Sport 23:30 Cricket: World Cup Highlights 00:30 Boating magazine 1:00 Cricket 2:30 Triatilion

BBC WORLD

News on the hour 6:05 Panorama (rpt) News on the hour 6:05 Panorama (pt) 10:15 Panorama (pt) 11:30 Tomorrow's World (rpt) 14:15 The Money Programme 15:15 World Business Report 15:30 Asia-Pacific Newshour 16:30 Holiday 17:15 Panorama (pt) 18:30 Top Geer (rpt) 19:30 Film 96 22:05 Panorama (rpt) 22:45 The Panel 23:30 The Clothes Show — Christmas Special 00:00 World Business Report 2:10 World Review 1996

SKY NEWS

News on the hour 6:30 CBS Evening News 7:30 ABC World News 11:30 Fashion TV 12:30 ABC Nightline 13:30 CBS News This Morning 16:30 Live Broadcast from Parliament 19:00 Live at Five 20:30 Tonight with Adam Boulton 21:30 Sportsline 22:30 Business Report 1:30 CBS Evening News 2:30 ABC

RADIO

IN VOICE OF MUSIC

6:06 Morning Concert 9:05 Bach: Partita no 4 BWV 828 (Gould); Purcell: Instrumental pieces from Dido and Aeneas; John Blow: Ode on the Death Aeneas; John Blow: Ode on the Death of Mr. Henry Purcell; Boccherini: Piano quintet op 57/2 (Mosaic/Cohen); Schubert: Sonata in B flat D960 (Lupu); Poulenc: Mass in G; Schnittke: String quartet no 3 (Borodin Ot) 12-00 Light Classical — works by Bach, Gluck, Schubert, Corelli, Christmas carols 13:00 Pianist Mikhail Pletnev — Mozart: Piano concerto no 9 (with German CO); Ichalkovsky: Fantasy for piano and Piano concerto no 9 (with German CO); Tchalkovsky: Faritasy for piano and orch (with Philharmonia/Fedoseyev) 14:06 Folk music – American Dream 15:00 From the Recording Studio – Semion Kruchin (piano). Haydn: Sonata no 23 in C; Ami Ma'ayani: 2 Preludes (1958); Liszt: Sonata di Petrarca op 2/3; Mendelssohn: 3 Songs without Words 18:00 Ear on the Pulse – CDs of the year 18:00 New CDs – 15th-century Christmas carols; Telemann: Sonata for violin and basso continuo in F from Musical Exercises; Anonymous: 2 for violin and basso continuo in F from Musical Exercises; Anonymous: 2 Christmas carols; Scarlatti: 4 Sonatas K443, 1, 283, 284 (Pletnev); Telemann: Trio in C minor for recorder, oboe and basso continuo (Cologne Camerata); P. Warlock: Christmas carol; Kurtag: String quartet no 1; P. Warlock: Christmas carol; Kurtag: Christmas carol; Dutilleux: The Tree of Dreams violin concerto; W. Byrd: Lullaby for my sweet baby, Christmas carol 20:05 Liturgica 1996, opening concert — Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-IBA, cond. David Shallon, soloists Kelley Nassief (soprano). soloists Kelley Nassief (soprano), Tamas Daroczi (tenor), Haim Topol (narrator), Royai Scottish National Orchestra Choir. Kodaly: Psalmus Hungaricus; Mendelssohn: Psalm 42; Bernstein: Symphony no 3 "Kaddish" ±23:00 A Musical Journey

CINEMA

Jingle All the Way 4:45
AFULA
RAV CHEN = 6424047 Long Kiss
Goodnight 7, 9:30 * Spittire Grill
9:30 * Kingpin 7, 9:30 * Jingle All

7:30 BEERSHEBA

NAHARIYA HEICHAL HATARBUT Spitfire Grill

HEICHAL MAIANDU Spille Can 8:30 UPPER NAZARETH G.G GIL Dragonheart Guimmer Man OLast Man Standing 4:30, 7, 9:30 * The Eighth Day@Feeling Minnesota@Long Kiss Goodnight OKingpin 4:30, 7, 9:30 NESS ZIONA G.G. Gil. 1-4 = 404729 Steepers 4:30, 7:15. 10 * Gilmmer

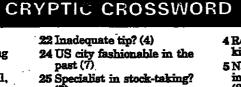
RAM 1-3 = 9340818 The QuesteFled 7:30, 10 * Jude 7:15, 10 RA'ANANA CIN-MOFET The Eighth Day 8:30 PARK Stealing Beauty 10 * Long Kiss Goodnight 7:30, 10 * Courage Under Fire 10 * Sleepers 7:30, 10 * The Nutty Professor 4:45, 7:30, 10 * The Nutty Professor 8:400) * Jingle All the Way 4:45, 7:30 * Matilda 4:45, 7:30 * Matilda 4:45, 7:30 * RAMAT GAN RAY-GAN 1-4 * 6197121 Emma 5, 7:30, 9:45 * Lone Star 7:15, 9:45 * Jack 5, 7:30, 9:45 * Sleepers 7, 9:45 * Jingle All the Way 5 * Matilda 5 * RAY-OASIS 1-3 * 6730687 Kingpin Long Kiss Goodnight Gillmmer Man 5, 7:30, 9:45 * RAMAT HASHARON KOKHAV Breaking the Waves 7, 10 REHOVOT RAY MOR DragonhearteKingpin 5, 7:30, 9:45 * Long Kiss Goodnight 5, 7:30, 9:45 * Long Kiss Goodnight 5, 7:30, 9:45 * Long Kiss Goodnight 5, 7:30, 9:45 * The Truth About Cals and Dogs 7:30, 9:45 * Madilda 5 * Jacke-Jingle Ali the Way 5, 7:30.

7:30, 9:45 * Matilida 5 * Jack@Aingle
All the Way 5, 7:30 .

RISHON LEZION
GAL 1-5 = 9619889 The Nutty
Professor®Trainspotting®Chain
Reaction®Antonia's Line 7:30, 10 *
A Time to Kill 7:15, 10 Gill 1-3
Steeling Beauty 5, 7:30, 10 * A Time to Kill 7:15, 10 Gil. 1-3
Steeling Beauty 5, 7:30, 10 *
Babysitters * Gilmmer Man 10 *
Dragonheart 5, 7:30 * Sleepers
4:30, 7:15, 10 HAZAHAV Gilmuner
Man 5, 7:30, 10 * Homeward Bound II
* Dragonheart 5, 7:30, 10 * Long
Kiss Goodnight 4:45, 7:15, 10 *
Kingpin 5, 7:30, 10 * Two Much 7:30,
10 * Jack 5 RAV CHEN Long Kiss
Goodnight 5, 7:15, 9:45 * Lone Star
9:45 * Emma 5, 7:30, 9:45 *
Beautiful Girls 7:30, 9:45 * Jingle All
the Way 5 * Kingpin 5, 7:30

Beauthul Girls 7:30, 9:45 * Jingle All the Way 5 * Kingpin 5, 7:30 YEHUD RAV CHEN Long Kies Goodnight 5, 7:30, 9:45 * Matikia * Kingpin 5, 7:30, 9:45 * Spittine Grill 9:45 * Jingle All the Way 5, 7:30

phone reservations: Tel Aviv 5252244 Haifa 728878 All times are p.m. unless



26 Explorers will go to extremes to reach them (4,2,3.5)

5 Naughty child to lie when in trouble, being insolent (8) 6 German city revised a list of necessities (10) 7 Rag merchant (9,6)

8 Eccentric dancer stretched his neck (6) 13 What unwise drinkers may get, the fools! (10)

16 Main swell to begin moving (5.3)17 A film's been made out of this continent (6)

19 Not a subject put on in advance (7) 20 Want to disguise hatred (6) 23 I stole away to an isolated

spot (4) SOLUTIONS

Quick Solution ACROSS: 1 Sighed, 4 Affect, 7 Unseating, 9 Lung, 10 Gain, 11 Flood, 13 Beadly, 14 Revars, 15 Victor, 17 Fester, 19 Rowen, 20 Poem, 23 Fest, 23 Distamper, 24 Roused, 25 Rudely.

102 FIRE FIRST AID Magen David Adom In emergencies diel 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addi-Ashdod 8561333 Ashkelon 6551332 Bearshebar 6274767

POLICE

1707.

Ner Saver 902222 Neternya* 9012333 Neternya* 804444 Petah Tiloga* 9311111 Rehovot* 9451333 Rishon* 9842333 Saled 920333 Tel Aut* 5460111 Tiberias* 792444 Beit Stermesh 8523133 Den Region 5793333 Eler 6332444 Hailer 8512233 m" 523133 Variety 9985444 Tibertas' 792444

* Michie Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the great, ground the clock. Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-

Hadera 346769.
Wizo hodines for bettered women 02-651411, 03-546-1133 (also in Russian), 07-637-6310, 08-855-0506 (also in Amharic), Rape Crists Center (24 hous), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5556, Hadessah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association support service 02-624-7576).

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE Fargo 5, 9:45 *
Amadeus 7 * She Wore a Yellow
Ribbon 7 * The Death Cottage 9:30
G.G. Gil Jerusalem Mail (Maiha) #
6788448 Steepers® A Time to Kill
4:30, 7:15, 10 * Eddle®Fied ®Two
Much@Gilmmer Man 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 *
Dragonheart 4:45, 7:15, 10 * The Professor 4:45, 7:15 * Jude JERUSALEM THEATER 20

4:30, 7:15, 10 * Gilmmer Mane-Pad 5, 7:30, 10 TEL AVIV MUSEUM Everiasting Joy 5, 8, 10 HAIFA
CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI = 8325755
Stealing Beauty Summer in La Goulette 7:15, 9:15 ATZMON Sleepers 4:15, 6:45, 9:30 * Gilmmer Mane The Rocke The Quest 4:30, 7, 9:15 * Independence Day 4:15, 8:45, 9:15 CINEMATHEQUE I! Postino 7 * Surrogate Woman 9:30 GLOBECTY Dragonheart 4:45, 7:15 * Eddie 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 * Sleepers 4:30, 7:15, 10 * Two Much 4:45, 7:15, 8:45 * Babe (Hebrew dialog) The Nurty Professor * Glimmer Man 4:45, 9:45 MORIAH CAFE = 8643654 Breaking the Waves 6:45, 9:30 ORLY • 8381868 Emma 7, 9:15 PANORA-MA Eddie 4:30, 7, 9:30 * Two Much 4:30, 7, 9:30 * A Time to KIE 6:45, 8:30 * The Nurty Professor 4:30 RAV-GAT 1-2 = 8674311 Kingpine Long Kiss Goodnight 4:45, 7, 9:15 * Last Man Standing 4:45, 7, 9:15 * Last Man Standing 4:45, 7, 9:15 * Last Man Standing 4:45, 7, 9:15 * Last Man 4:45, 7, 9:15 * The Truth ABout Cets and Dogs 4:45, 7, 9:15 * The Truth About Cats and Dogs 7, 9:15 * Bound®Basquiat 4:45, 7, 9:15 * Bound®B

the Way 7
ARAD
STAR Sleepers 7, 9:45 * Jingle All
the Way 7:30 * Double Happiness
9:45 * The Quest 7:15, 9:45
ARIEL

B:45 * The Quest 7:15, 9:45

ARIEL

St. Clara 9

ASHDOD

G.G. Gil. * 8647202

KingpineGilimmer Mane-Jingle All the
WayeTwo Much 5, 7:30, 10 * Long
Kiss Goodnight 4:45, 7:15, 10 G.G.

ORI 1-3 * 711223 Sleepers 7, 9:45 *

Dragonheart 5, 7:30, 10 * Eddle 5,
7:30, 10

ASHKELON

G.G. Gil. * 729977 Stealing Beauty*

Dragonheart Mane-Gilmmer Mane-G

G.G. Gil. Eddie The Quest Antonia's Line Two Nuch 5,7:30, 10 G.G. ORI Sleepers 7, 10 * Dragonheart Gilmmer Mane Stealing Beauty 5,7:30, 10 RAV-NEGEV 1-4 * 235278 Kingpin Long Kiss Goodnight 5,7:30,9:45 * Last Men Standing Spittire Grill 7:30,9:45 * Jingle All the Way 5 * Matika 5 HADERA LEV Long Kiss Goodnight 7:15, 10 * La Affina Elettive 7:30, 10 * Sleepers 7,9:30 * Kingpin 7:30,10

Sleepers 7, 9:30 * Kingpin 7:30, 10
HERZLIYA
COLONY The Truth About Cats and DogseLa Affina Elettive 6, 8, 10
HOLIDAY Double Happiness 7:30
STAR = 589068 Long Kiss Goodnight 7:30, 10 * Dragonheart * Eddle 7:30, 10 * Sleepers 7:15, 9:45
KARMIEL
CINEMA KingpineTwo Much 7, 9:30
* Long Kiss Goodnight 7, 9:30
KFAR SAVA
G.G. Gil. #7677370 Long Kiss Goodnight 4:30, 7:15, 10 * Eddle 5, 7:30, 10 * Glimmer Man 7:30, 10
* Jack 5 * Sleepers 4:30, 7:15, 10 * Homeward Bound II 11:30
a.m., 2, 5 * Kingpin 5, 7:30, 10 * Martida * Dragonheart 5, 7:30, 10
* Spitfire Grill 5, 7:30, 10
KIRYAT BIALIK
G.G. Gil. Sleepers@Glimmer Man 7, 9:30

* Sprinte Grain 7, 230, 10
KIRYAT BIALIK
G.G. Gil. Sleepers@Gilmmer Man 7, 9:30 * Last Man Standing 7, 9:30
* Jack 4:45, 7, 9:30 * Matiida
4:45 * Eddie@Dragonheart 4:45, 7, 9:30 * Two Much@Stealing
Beauty 7, 9:30 * The Nutry
Professor 7, 9:30 * Homeward
Bound II 4:45
KIRYAT ONO
MATNAS THE Nutry Professor 9
KIRYAT SHMONA
G.G. Gil. Long Kiss Goodnight
4:30, 7, 9:30 * Gilmmer Man 9:30
* Jack 4:30, 7 * The Eighth Day
7, 9:30 * Homeward Bound II 4:30
LOD
STAR Eddie@The Quest 5, 7:30, 10
* Jingle Ail the Way 5, 7:30 *
Double Happiness 10

Weizman 'regrets' humiliating gays

THE conflagration sparked by President Ezer Weizman's remarks about gays was put out yesterday, but the embers were still burning, following a lengthy meeting between the president and representatives of the gay popula-tion, who were joined by MKs.

The president sees legislation which discriminates as undermining the foundations of democracy, the rules of natural justice, and the dignity and freedom of man, and he has no intention of encouraging legislation which leads to discrimination between citizens of the state regardless of origin, religion, sex or sexual orientation," a statement released after the meeting said.

"The president says that any deed or expression in which people are publicly humiliated - or deeds which can be interpreted as such - should be regretted," the statement continued. "The dignity, rights and well-being of all the citizens of Israel must be upheld."

The statement was read out by Weizman's bureau chief, Arye Shumer, to the press. It followed an hour-long meeting between the president, his wife Reuma at his side, and representatives of the Society for the Protection of Personal Rights, led by Dr. Uzi Even. They were accompanied by

THE Histadrut will decide today

whether to stage a national labor

strike on Thursday, in response to

the government's budget proposals.

Minister Binyamin Netanyahu

told Histadrut chairman Amir

Peretz that in setting the budget

proposals the government has

gone a long way not to affect the

workers or the weaker classes.

There are no direct increases in

taxation, and the government aims

for continued economic growth,

tamed inflation and lower unem-

The Prime Minister asked the

Histadrut not to strike. Peretz told

him a decision would be taken

today during a meeting of

Meanwhile, the Treasury last

night issued an updated list of its

budget proposals and changes it

agreed with the Knesset Finance

more than NIS 160 million, at

20% in development zones A and

-Capital-investment aid to facto-

ries, where the total investment is ment refuted by the government.

ployment, Netanyahu said.

Histadrut senior officers.

Committee. These include:

At a meeting yesterday Prime

BATSHEVA TSUR

MKs Yael Dayan and Ofer Pines of Labor, and Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid and MK Naomi Chazan.

"It was not an easy meeting but it was most helpful," Sarid said later. "The president saw that gays are human beings without horns, exemplary citizens. If he had known this before, he would not have made the remarks."

Sarid said he was encouraged by the fact that the president had withdrawn his remarks about the need for legislation against homosexuals and that he had expressed regret.

Dayan, who heads the Knesset lobby for gay rights, and is Weizman's niece, appeared some-what less satisfied, saying that the president had "not said enough after he said too much." She expressed the fear that those who had jumped onto the bandwagon -"rabbis, MKs" - would not quiet down quickly and that the delegitimization of a large segment of the population could lead to violence against them.

The president did not apologize," she said. "That is not his style. But he did understand things he had not known before, such as the legislation in the Knesset which speaks of sexual orientation and

Histadrut mulls national strike

DAVID HARRIS

and DAVID RUDGE

10% in zones B. Where the invest-

ment is less than NIS 160m., at

24% and 12%. These rules will

only apply in 1997, before reverting to 20% and 10% rates.

tourism projects at 20% in A zones

cultural projects at 30% in A zones

·Soldiers' demobilization grants.

Within 60 days officials will come

up with new proposals.

With regard to privatization.

Netanyahu said he would arrange

a series of meetings during the

process of selling state assets. The

Histadrut has made plain its strong

opposition to the government's

intention to sell many of its com-

panies, starting next year. The

Histadrut claims this will lead to

widespread job losses, an argu-

The Histadrut decided over two

weeks ago to declare a general

and 10% in B zones.

and 10% in B zones.

•Capital-investment aid to

-Capital-investment aid in agri-

not sexual perversion; and the IDF regulations about homosexuals. This has been an expensive lesson for the [gay] community. I hope the president won't slip up again in the future," she said of her uncle.

Even said, however, that the gays were "satisfied with what we achieved. We had a chance to express our deep hurt over the president's remarks...We understand that he is ready to accept now that things are not the way they were when he was a youngster. The atmosphere was one of reconciliation."

He said the president learnt that gays constitute 10 percent of the population. "There is now an attempt to prevent further damage and the dialogue will be continued." Even said.

The World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations sent a letter to Weizman expressing concern over his remarks. The group urged him to retract them

Outside Beit Hanassi, about two dozen demonstrators carrying the national flag with the word "Moledet" (Homeland) printed on it in green, kept up a steady chant: "Homos, go back to the closet." Several of the demonstrators held placards bearing the formula: "Homo + Lesbian = Meretz."

labor dispute on behalf of the organized workforce throughout

the country, as a prelude to the

proposed strike to protest the gov-

The Tel Aviv Regional Labor

Court Sunday ruled in favor of a

petition by the management of Mekorot and its subsidiary

Shaham against the workers stag-

could stage a local strike for a three-

hour period from 1 p.m. on one day

only from Thursday, provided it

was coordinated between manage-

ment and works committees at the

Ahead of the commencement of

the Knesset debate on the

Budgetary Arrangements bill,

Finance Minister Dan Meridor

told reporters he believes the mar-

ket should be very satisfied with

the budget deliberations in recent

days. "I look at the general pic-

ture, before I go into the details,

he said. "I won't claim victory,

until the work is finished next

week in the Knesset plenum."

water company's various sites.

The court ruled that the workers

ernment's budget cuts.

ing a general strike.



A demonstrator with a sign reading "The Bible says! Homosexual = beast" protests outside Beit Hanassi yesterday, during a meeting between President Ezer Weizman and a delegation of gays.

Nazareth ready for Christmas

NAZARETH is putting up more decorations and planning more events to make this year's Christmas celebrations as festive

as possible. More decorations are lining the streets of the mixed Moslem and Christian Arab city this year, enlivening the atmosphere, and extra events are planned in addi-

mark the holiday and the new Hotels in the city were reported to be nearly rull with pi foreign visitors, despite the drop

tion to the traditional ones to

in tourism. Shops, meanwhile, appeared to be doing a brisk trade in the sales of presents, trees and decorations **DAVID RUDGE**

for the holiday, despite concern of a possible recession because of budget cuts and the prospect of higher taxes.

There is a real holiday atmosphere in the city. There are more street decorations and the shops are also decorated and playing Christmas music as in previous years," said Nazareth City Council spokesman Ramzi Hakim.

The traditional Christmas recepnitaries and foreign visitors, including embassy representa-

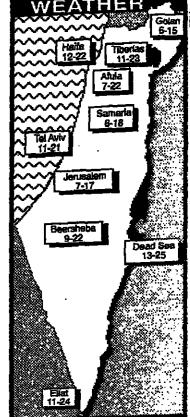
tives, at City Hall last night. staged through the main street of

the city this afternoon, with the participation of choirs and groups from abroad, as well as Arab Christian communities in the region.

"More than 10,000 people are expected to take part in the parade itself, " said Hakim. "Throughout the week, we will be staging many events including liturgy concerts in the city. These are all part of events leading up to Nazareth 2000."

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat intends to be in Bethlehem for year, tourism officials said yester-

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij is negotiations while disruptive A Christmas parade is to be hospitalized with poeumonia and will not attend the festivities.



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear



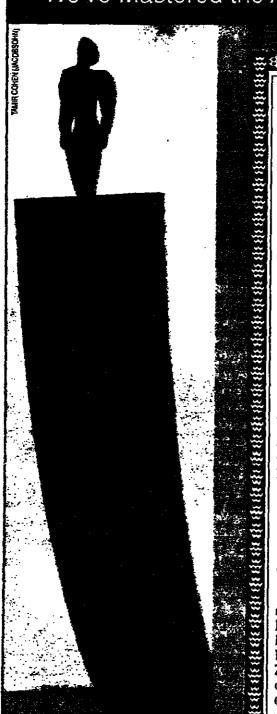
Haifa Chemicals talks break down

TALKS between management and workers of the strike-bound Haifa Chemicals factory broke down yesterday, despite some progress having been made. The Haifa Regional Labor Court will reconvene today to hear reports from both sides.

The Histadrut, in the talks yesterday, proposed that 60 employees take voluntary retirement and also agreed that any grade rises be deferred for a year, as well as other cutbacks aimed at reducing company's costs Management, however, insisted

years and also complained about the difficulties in conducting action by the workers continues. David Rudge

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